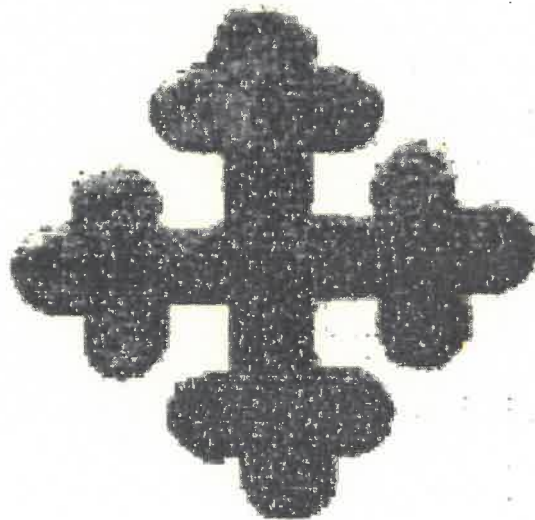


**The Life and Times of**  
**Lt. NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN, CSA**



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**James E. Bebermeyer, Sr.**  
**March 15, 2000**



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## Dedications

To my beloved wife Carolyn Louise Flagg Bebermeyer, her love and patience give me purpose and strength.

In memory of Daphne Noel Bebermeyer, 1998; Frances DeLois Bebermeyer, 1998; and Richard Allan Scheele, 1999. All passing from life, but our cherished memories of them remain.

## Acknowledgments

My special thanks go out to Helen Warfield Burgess Bebermeyer Seymour and Carolyn Warfield Scheele Fakadej, for their contributions and review of this manuscript; Diane M. Lepkowski, Deputy Zoning Administrator, Rockingham County, Virginia, for providing a copy of their county map; Lynn Conway, Archivist, Georgetown University, District of Columbia, for her research of the college's archives and copies of proof; Robert C. Larson, Loudon Park Cemetery, Baltimore, Md., for his research of the cemetery records and providing articles of proof; and David Sawyer, Cleburne, Texas for allowing me to borrow his written references.

## To the Readers

As a descendant of NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN and an amateur historian on the War for Southern Independence, it gives me great pleasure to present you with this story of an interesting Snowden personality. This ancestor of ours lived in a time in American history when our nation was first divided, then collided in a great Civil War. NICHOLAS would come face to face with his destiny of honor, but he would never reap the rewards of his legacy. Please keep in mind while reading this narrative, that to know the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Battalion (CS) is to know NICHOLAS.

This condensed narrative is composed of three factually based sections. These sections are derived from the compilation of Civil War texts; biographies; records on the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Battalion (CS) and her sister units; and my military and historical knowledge, all culminating from four years of research. Where my sources on events were in contradiction, I applied a logical median to the event and backed them up with governing factors when available. I have also taken the liberty of giving a readable cohesion to the facts, so that the reader's interest is maintained. Like most factually based articles some of these facts may be in error, but unknowingly presented with the best intentions. When possible, every attempt was made to verify these facts. Throughout this text Lt. NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN, CSA is referred to by his first name in capital letters, NICHOLAS.

It is my hope that from this narrative about my Great-great-grandfather, in some small way, stimulates further research and interest about the ancestry and gentry of Snowden family. It is also my desire that from this work, 'The Life and Times of Lt. Nicholas N. Snowden, CSA' that NICHOLAS will live in our descendant's hearts and minds for posterity.

Happy reading!



James Emerson Bebermeyer, Sr.  
March 15, 2000



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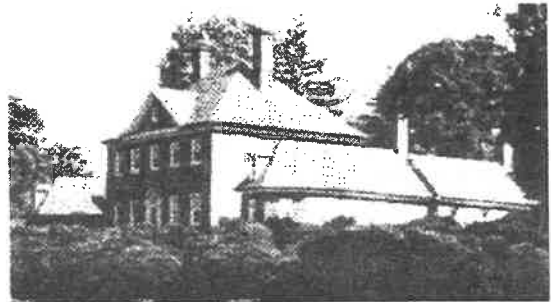


## 'The Early Years'

In the rich, rolling agricultural meadowlands of Prince Georges County, Maryland lived the principled Quaker families of the Snowdens as they had lived since the mid-1600s. This is the story of one such Snowden, Lt. NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN (1828-1862), who gave his life for principles in which he believed.

NICHOLAS is the descendant of Richard Snowden, Sr. ('The Immigrant' 1640-1711), a 17<sup>th</sup> century Welshman and the progenitor of the Maryland Snowden dynasty. Major Thomas Snowden (1751-1803), the great great grandson of Richard Snowden, Sr., was an officer in the *Maryland Line* of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Major Snowden built the Georgian colonial mansion called Montpelier in 1783. The mansion is located near what was to become known as the village of the Laurel Factory.

Major Thomas Snowden and Ann Dorsey Ridgely, an heiress, were married in 1774. Born into this union were five children. One of the five children was NICHOLAS' father, Nicholas Snowden, Sr. (1786-1831), who was born at Montpelier and grew up there.



Montpelier Mansion

On October 7<sup>th</sup> in 1806, Nicholas, Sr. married Elizabeth Warfield Thomas and continued to live in Montpelier during the remaining years of Nicholas Snowden's life. From Elizabeth's side of the marriage, due to land and dower, they tripled their effective wealth. Later, because of Nicholas and Elizabeth's abundance, their family would be shunned from attending their regular Quaker meetings. They were to remain true to the Quaker Order in spite of this action taken by the Quaker elders.

With Major Thomas Snowden's death in 1803, Nicholas became the principal heir to the Major's estate. From his father's vast land holdings of 9,000 acres, 4,000 acres were bequeathed to Nicholas. He later acquired Montpelier from his mother Ann. Part



Nicholas Snowden Manor

of this acreage included the site of the small village of the Laurel Factory that would be established by Nicholas. It is said that Nicholas built his first home, 'Nicholas Snowden Manor' in 1811, and also used it as his place of business. The home was built on a hill near the Laurel Factory, surrounded by three acres of land that overlooked Nicholas' prosperous blacksmithing, mercantile, and wheelwright establishments.

Nicholas surveyed plats that skirted this property reaching south and along the Patuxent River. On these plats, a dotted landscape of cabins and homes would be erected for the tenants and workers of the village. Nicholas daughter Louisa Victoria Snowden (1811-1849) and her husband Horace Capron

(1804-1885) lived at the Manor after they married in 1834. With his son-in-law's consent, the dwelling continued to serve as Nicholas' place of business.

Between Nicholas and Elizabeth's properties, acquired grants and tracts, their combined holdings were estimated at the time of Nicholas' death, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1831, to be nearly 27,000 acres. This acreage extends into the west side of Anne Arundel County to the Middle Eastern half of Montgomery County. From north to south, this acreage spanned from the lower tip of Howard County to central Prince Georges County. Upon this land Nicholas' business in agriculture thrived. Their properties produced the cash crops of tobacco, corn, wheat, and 'King Cotton.' As one of his friends later recollected, Nicholas did own a large number of slaves, 73 in all, to work the land and served as servants for the mansion.

Nicholas and Elizabeth brought thirteen children into their world. Their twelfth child, NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN, born April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1828, is the subject of this narrative. Along with his brothers and sisters, NICHOLAS grew up at Montpelier Mansion and later at Avondale in this strict, but passive Quaker family.

NICHOLAS was three years old at the time of his father's death in 1831. Elizabeth, NICHOLAS' mother, retained ownership of the estate, until about 1834, when she could no longer handle these affairs. As a devout Quaker, Elizabeth detested the ownership of slaves. By law, she could not just set them free, so she sold them to themselves for one dollar. A few of these slaves stayed on in her employment. She turned over the execution of Nicholas' estate to Dr. Theodore Jenkins. NICHOLAS' older sister, Juliana, inherited Montpelier by lot and she then married Dr. Jenkins.

Prior to 1834, Elizabeth had anticipated relinquishment of Nicholas' properties, excluding his business', according to Quaker law. She built the Victorian style 'Avondale Mansion' and after the structure was built, Elizabeth and the younger children moved in and set up their home.

NICHOLAS' mother, as well as his father before, was loving parents. They would nurture and prepare their children for the life ahead of them. The children were well educated according to their gender. Their early schooling was accomplished at home, while tutors were brought in to teach the more advanced subjects. Later they would attend regular classes at their local Quaker school.



Avondale Mansion

In 1843, at age 15 and 13 respectively, NICHOLAS and his younger brother Arthur Montieth Snowden would enroll in Georgetown College and walk the hollowed halls.

NICHOLAS and Arthur's enrollment record<sup>1</sup> reads:

*Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1843      Nicholas and Arthur Snowden  
Entered this day Nicholas & Arthur Snowden  
Sons of Mrs. Elizabeth Snowden of P Georges County Md.  
Pays \$300 per session for both pupils.  
Office 'Laurel Factory Md.'*

Georgetown College was a truly Southern Catholic college. In the beginning, the college was formerly funded by the U.S. Congress as an institution of higher education, within the District of Columbia. The mean age of entrance was 14 years. Newly enrolled students were tested and placed accordingly. During this antebellum period, it became one of the most prestigious seven-year academic institutions in the country.

Of its alumni, most were Southerners. Between 1812 and 1860, more than four-fifths of the student body would serve in the Confederacy during the War for Southern Independence. The war nearly closed Georgetown College when the student enrollment fell from 312 in 1859, to 18 in the fall of 1861.

Arthur continued his studies at Georgetown, until July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1845. He then entered the University of Maryland and graduates with a degree in medicine. He later used his talents as a surgeon for the Confederacy.

After completing three and half years, NICHOLAS left the Georgetown College on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1846 to help his mother handle her businesses. He became preoccupied with learning to conduct, by trial and error, the business and plantation operations. With his brother-in-law's permission, like his father before, he would run the enterprises out of 'Nicholas Snowden Manor.' Unlike his father, NICHOLAS was not an astute businessman for his passion lay in farming in which he succeeded.

Playmates as children, NICHOLAS again met his cousin Henrietta Stabler at a family gathering at Avondale in 1848. He became smitten by her charm and purposeful demure. Henrietta Stabler was born on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1829 and was the daughter of William Henry Stabler and Eliza Thomas of Auburn, Sandy Springs, Maryland. This was her family's earlier home. They later built a second home at Engleside in Ashton, Montgomery County, Maryland.

On The 28th of May 1850, the Mayor of Philadelphia united NICHOLAS and Henrietta. They made their home at 'Avondale Mansion' where NICHOLAS' family would grow over the next ten years. Henrietta would give birth to the first five of their six children.



Henrietta Stabler

<sup>1</sup> Source 1. Lynn Conway of Georgetown University provided this record of NICHOLAS and Arthur's college enrollment.

- Emily Roseville Snowden was born on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1851. She would marry Gerald J. Hopkins.
- Marian Snowden was born on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1853. She would die young at the age of 3.
- Lucy Snowden was born on March 13<sup>th</sup> 1855. She would marry Walter Lea then William W. Moore.
- Helen Snowden was born on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1857. She would marry Dr. Augustus Stabler.
- Francis Snowden<sup>2</sup> was born on March 18<sup>th</sup> 1859. He would marry Frances B. Stabler.

### ‘The Decade of Turbulence’

NICHOLAS and Henrietta’s first nine years were no doubt the couples happiest, for the following years would mark NICHOLAS’ remaining time on earth.

One must understand the dynamics of turmoil that clutched the nation during this decade, to understand NICHOLAS’ unfolding dilemma in making his ultimate choice. The choice was about his loyalties, whether to defend and preserve the ‘Old Union’, or openly declare his allegiance to the newly forming Confederacy. His choice would have an untold consequence on his life and his family for this decision. Like his Southern aristocratic brethren, NICHOLAS knew that the path Maryland took in this struggle, by tradition, was one that he would follow.

Maryland was a microcosm of both Northern and Southern traditions. You could say that Maryland was the reflection of the country in miniature. During this turbulent period, many economic, social, and political wedges of churning hostility would be driven between the Northern industrial states and the Southern agricultural states. Because of these wedges, Maryland would soon suffer constitutional violations to her sovereignty and disregard to her states’ rights. The Federal government inflicted most of these violations on her.

The first wedge was economic. Since 1846, an increase had occurred in the demand for Southern agriculture products by the Northern states and overseas markets due to increasing populations. The one crop per field planting system used in the Southern states was depleting their once fertile soils all across the South. Soon major crop failures became commonplace. Hardest hit was the planters of tobacco and cotton. The South would grow then ship the raw materials by rail, sail, steamer, and wagon to the North. The North in turn would process and resell the finished and unfinished products to Northern, Western, and overseas markets. The Northern industrial merchants were more efficient in providing avenues of trade than the South.

With the continued shortage of these agricultural products, their prices began to escalate. The Northern businessmen, for fear that their trading partners would sever their relations, began to refuse to pay the opening auction price by bidding down prices.

The Southern planters and farmers, like NICHOLAS, faced certain economic collapse. They began to organize regionally to determine what course of action was needed to make their land more prosperous.

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<sup>2</sup> Francis Snowden would be NICHOLAS’ only gentry descendent until his death in 1936.



It wasn't until 1855, when they formulated a plan. The solution was to regenerate the soil using crop rotation, new plowing methods, and introducing fertilizers made of guano and manure. Their new farming techniques began to pay off in 1857, when all Southern farms and plantations became more productive and wealthy.

The downside of this was an oversupply of agricultural goods from the South causing the prices to drop naturally at auction. All the while, the prices charged by the North to overseas markets remained for the most part stable. To eliminate this problem, Southern merchants took control and creatively developed their own trade avenues to overseas and Western markets. Instead of sending their goods to the North, they shipped the raw materials directly from Southern ports. By bypassing the Northern agent, countries like England and France were more than willing to pay the Southerners asking price.

This action by the South manifested into what was to be perceived by the Northerners as a boycott of their markets. The Northern merchants and industrialist lobbied the predominately Northern congress. This activity resulted in tariffs being imposed on exported Southern goods, while none were levied against similar Northern goods.

This infuriated the Southern planters, farmers, and merchants, alike. Believing that these tariffs were in violation of the U.S. Constitution, as well as unfair taxation, the Southerners ignored payment of these tariffs; in essence, they smuggled their goods overseas.

The final economic wedge was about to be struck. With the invention of the Cotton Gin in 1793, this innovation along with slavery made the cotton industry more profitable. Slavery expanded dramatically, even into the Western states and territories like Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas. The issue of slavery and the spread of it had been argued even before the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

To Southern slave owners, their slaves were considered properties of their estate; however, not all Southern planters and farmers were slave owners. For instance, there is no record of NICHOLAS ever having possessed slaves. It is believed that because of NICHOLAS' Quaker upbringing, for him to own slaves would dishonor his beliefs. Besides, cheap labor was plentiful at this time. With the increase in Irish and German emigrants and the large population of free blacks, 27% of Maryland's total population that included slaves; an abundance of labor-for-hire was available to do the hard work and chores of the Maryland plantations.

The Federal government soon realized that the Southerners did not intend to pay the newly imposed tariffs. The government then mandated, by law, that all states having slaves within its boundaries would impose and collect higher property taxes on their populace. Again, this outraged the Southerners. Most of the Southern states, like Maryland, had elected Pro-Southern Democratic governors for this reason. Another reason was that they feared the increased centralization and strength of the pro-Northern Federal government. The Southern state governors reluctantly, but eventually imposed these taxes, yet they then delayed or neglected to collect them.

Striking of the social wedge was next. The industrial North's perception of Southern culture was considered archaic. The institution of slavery was considered an abomination and the failure of the governments', local, state, or Federal, to act on this issue was altogether neglectful. The Northern intentions were to bring social disgrace to reflect upon the South. They directed this campaign of demonization through the courts and newspapers.

The first seed of social insurrection was taken by the Northern sponsored slavery abolitionist, John Brown. Moved by what he felt was the divine hand of God, he overtook the U.S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia in October of 1859. His hope was that the slaves in the surrounding counties would rise in armed insurrection against their owners and join his army to eradicate slavery. Within 30 hours, Lieutenant James Ewell Brown (JEB) Stuart and a Battalion of Marines, led by Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee, subdued Brown and his men.

Six weeks passed before Brown was tried and hung for criminal conspiracy and treason against the government. This insurgency had a sobering ripple effect on Marylanders because of the proximity to their state's border. This action by Northern anti-slavers convinced Southern slave owners that the slaves must be repressed even more so to prevent any possible uprising.

### **'The Years of Rebellion and Secession'**

Although the country was still in political and social turmoil, the first half of 1860 saw economic growth for NICHOLAS' plantation operations. Time was still afforded the pleasantries of life for NICHOLAS and Henrietta. They were both socially active in the community and church. Henrietta, as well as her mother-in-law, loved to entertain at Avondale. Her friends and family members, as well as NICHOLAS' friends and business associates were all welcome.

By the turn of the decade, the 1860 census gives some insight about NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN's affairs. From this census, one can find the following information:

Home: Avondale near the Laurel Factory  
Age: 32  
Occupation: Farmer  
Born: Laurel, Maryland  
Real Estate Assets: \$10,000

Personal Estate Assets: \$40,000  
College: Georgetown College, 1843-1846  
Married: Henrietta Stabler in 1850  
Children<sup>3</sup>: 4

The next wedge was political and came with the election of Abraham Lincoln, in November of 1860. Before this, the Southern state legislatures presented motions and spoke of secession from the Union. A member of South Carolina's state legislature stated, "If any president-elect with a party platform containing an anti-slavery plank is elected, we shall secede." They feared that slavery would come abruptly to a legislative end with the joint leadership of the president and a pro-Northern congress.

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<sup>3</sup> Ref. 2, pg. 326. The number of children must have been recorded in error in the census. There are actually five children by this time.

The action of secession by a state was thought to be a God given right as declared in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the U.S. Constitution. For if any government became so tyrannical and oppressive, it is the right of the state and its citizens too severe their tie with it. The most outspoken state on this matter was South Carolina.

The Southern states' worst scenario came true with the election of Abraham Lincoln. South Carolina would be the first to vote on secession and then secede in December of 1860, followed by 10 other Southern states within the next year. Maryland was still undecided at this time.

When Lincoln took office in February 1861, throughout the South open rebellion took on the atmosphere of lynch mobs assaulting Federal arsenals and confiscating the munitions inside. Federal garrisoned troops who did not escape were taken as prisoners of war, though either side had not yet declared war. The country's citizenry swiftly realized that there was no turning back. John Brown's prophecy of war and bloodshed, foretold before his hanging, was to come forth.

After John Brown's insurrection, a second seed of social insurrection was taken by South Carolina in April 1861. South Carolina's governor demanded that the Federal garrisoned troops under the command of Major Anderson (US) at Fortress Sumter in Charleston's Harbor be evacuated. When Anderson refused, the fortress was ordered to be fired upon. The local militia commanded by General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, opened fire from the batteries on the harbor's heights, that were constructed during the War of 1812, for an expected invasion by the British.

As for the Marylanders, the final political wedge was to their state's sovereignty. Lincoln suspended the Constitutional rights afforded the citizens of the State of Maryland, as he did with all other strategically splintered territories. He deemed this necessary to preserve the Union. One of these rights was the suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, the denial of due process, from lower Pennsylvania to the Potomac River.

The reason for this action against Maryland was its geographical location. It was the first, most strategic territory to be controlled by the Federals during the War for Southern Independence. To the north fell the Mason-Dixon Line along the northern border of Maryland and adjoining Pennsylvania. Crossing this line from the north was considered entering the South. To the west-southwest, Maryland was separated from Virginia by the Potomac River. The Southern and Eastern peninsular counties of Maryland felt a strong kinship to Virginia, because their Southern traditions were so much alike, while the Northern and Western Allegheny counties shared commonalties with the Northern states.

The fly in the ointment, so to speak, is the District of Columbia serving as the seat of the country's government. The city is nestled against the Potomac River on the Maryland side. The Federal government knew that without control of Maryland the District of Columbia would be at the mercy of invading Southern military forces from the west. During this period, the second most strategic location was the Shenandoah Valley

in Virginia. The Valley could serve as the quickest avenue of invasion into the Maryland's countryside from the South, hence the Federal capital would be threaten.

Within days after taking office, the call went out by President Lincoln for the first 75,000 volunteers to fill the Union ranks and break the rebellion. Men from the Northeastern states quickly answered this call by forming into well-armed makeshift military units. They were then transported south, by rail, for the defense of the District of Columbia.

The final seed of social insurrection for Marylanders occurred on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1861, when in Baltimore, Maryland the 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment, in route to the District of Columbia, made a transfer at the Baltimore & Ohio Railway's Camden Station. A caterwauling, pro-Secessionist crowd attacked the regiment in the streets. The first Maryland blood was shed when Frank X. Ward, a Baltimore attorney and future officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion, grabbed the regimental colors from the 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts' flag bearer's hands. Ward was immediately fired upon, wounding him and killing another rioter. When the violence ended after four hours, all totaled, twelve Baltimoreans had died with numerous injured.

The call came out for the militia forces from both Virginia and Maryland by Governor Thomas H. Hicks, requested of the Mayor of Baltimore, to bring order to Baltimore streets. Bradley Thomas Johnson of Frederick County and George Ridgely Gaither of Howard County came with their fully armed and mounted militia. The militiamen were used to provide armed protection for all from further riots, as well as their defense from the expected Federal troops arriving from the District of Columbia.

Immediately following the 'Baltimore Riots,' NICHOLAS responded to the call with a band of approximately thirty-one armed and mounted neighbors from Prince Georges County. They would team up with boys from Anne Arundel County led by Francis A. Bond, who would later serve in Company 'K' of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry. Their orders were to cut the railroad and telegraph lines; patrol along the Annapolis-Washington Road; and to protect Annapolis during riots after a possible Federal take-over of the city. This was quite a handful of responsibility for these young naive men, considering the organized Federal troops or the pro-Northern civilians would have outnumbered them.

The final straw was the shedding of Maryland blood and Federal occupation of Maryland. Pronounced by Lincoln and achieved by deception, he ordered garrisoned troops to various points along railways, roadways, and in major townships to the intense dislike of the citizenry. Martial and military law fell over Baltimore, as secession was actively silenced.

All Maryland Pro-Southern sympathizers sought secession now. To their indignation, the Maryland General Assembly voted against secession by 53 to 13. This vote was taken out of fear that they had not seen the worst infringements on their rights from the Federal government. The legislators were right, for the worst was yet to come in spite of their vote. Further indignities to Marylander's civil liberties were just about to begin.

Despite Maryland's vote not to secede from the Union, hence for neutrality, NICHOLAS' empathy was with the South. To avoid the call by President Lincoln for Maryland conscripts to be organized into military units for the Union forces; NICHOLAS made his decision. After thoughtful reflection with Henrietta, NICHOLAS would seek to enlist in the Confederate Army.

The preceding critical events, as they were for most Southerners, were deemed the elements NICHOLAS' used to rationalize his decision to fight for the Confederacy.

### **'To War for the Cause, Maryland, and Our Honor!'**

As records go, Maryland's late winter of 1860 was unexpectedly dry, but cold. One spring evening, as NICHOLAS sat with Louisa's, husband and son Horace (1839)<sup>4</sup> on the Manor's portico, they watched the sun's rays slowly extinguish. NICHOLAS suddenly articulated, "My time has come, in two days I shall go to the South, as Horace you shall go to the North. My hope is that we will never meet again, unless on more pleasant terms, until after this great conflict has ended!" NICHOLAS then took a sip his sister's recipe for her delicious apple-rum cider, as his relatives, contemplating his words, said nothing more as the warm sun set on the horizon.

It is now May 26<sup>th</sup>, as the day had arrived for NICHOLAS to set out on his pilgrimage to join his friends in arms. Henrietta had been with child since late last August. As a concerned expectant father, he had already delayed his departure by a month because of her condition.

NICHOLAS' destination was Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Of the three avenues to his destination, he chose the National Turnpike over the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal and the Baltimore & Ohio Chessis Railway. The length of the Pike, with which NICHOLAS would become well accustomed to, stretched from Baltimore to Frederick, Maryland. The reason for choosing the Pike was that the canal was too slow and both the canal and the railways were heavily guarded, thus providing no means of escape from prying Federal patrols. Word had spread that those persons found crossing into Virginia, by whatever means, to enlist with the Confederacy were being jailed as rebellious criminals or worst as spies.

NICHOLAS had made prior arrangements with William K. Howard of Baltimore and Mason E. McKnew of St. Marys County, both long time friends of NICHOLAS, to make the journey together. As with other Marylander's entire exodus to the South, these three men sought the prize of the Confederate Army, a position in the chivalrous cavalry legions. They would be disappointed.

It was well known that traveling by day on the Pike was dangerous, and even more so if alone at night. Highwayman roamed the Pike and loved to separate travelers from their

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<sup>4</sup> Horace Capron (1804) is the son of Dr. Seth and Eunice (Mann) Capron. Horace Junior (1839) served in the Union Army during the War for Southern Independence. He enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry (US) and he was one of six men from his unit to be awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism.

bounty. What firearms his friends did not have, NICHOLAS provided. These arms, mostly flintlocks for hunting, were of fine quality, but would be inadequate for combat.

Days earlier, NICHOLAS was reassured by his mother Elizabeth and his brother-in-law Dr. Jenkins that Henrietta would get the proper care she needed. He said his good-byes leaving his wife and children in their care at Avondale.

Arranging for three of the finest steeds from NICHOLAS' stables, the three men rode north to Ellicott City. Following the Pike and averaging twelve miles through the night, they arrived at Frederick. All along the way, they stopped before dawn at the homes of Pro-Southern Marylanders and friends. Here they were provided with meals and quarters for much needed sleep during the day. On the evening of May 30<sup>th</sup>, they left Frederick heading west-southwest for their longest and final jaunt to Harpers Ferry.

Arriving at Harpers Ferry, as the sun awakened over the Eastern Mountains above the Potomac, they were directed by pickets towards their fellow Marylanders' campsite. Their fellow comrades with handshakes and the occasional slap on the back immediately greeted the three men. They were drained from the trip, as the three men only desired food and rest.

The camp was bustling with soldierly activity, as an orderly escorted the three men to the mess tent. The three responded in amusement at the commotion of the sergeants blustering out commands to the squads of men before them.

Along the way, NICHOLAS made some notable observations. First, the colonial Maryland gentry were well represented among the officers and ranks of the enlisted men. Second, the age of the men seemed to range from 16 to 55 years of age, with the mean age around 23. Third, the men in formation, most of them having arrived two months earlier, were still in their civilian clothes that they had brought with them, now all tattered and threadbare. Their shoes were worn through to the soles. Finally, the men were all quite whimsically ill equipped. They slung sticks as rifles and swords, because most had arrived without weapons. If they had brought their weapons, the firearms were quickly confiscated for training the city boys in the fine art of marksmanship and the manual of arms drill.

To solve the deplorable condition of the troops, Major Bradley T. Johnson's wife, Jane Claudia Johnson had departed weeks earlier with Captain Nicholas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Shear, and four teamsters. With requisitions and lists of equipment in hand, their journey would take them to Mrs. Johnson's native state of North Carolina then back through Richmond to Harpers Ferry.



Major Bradley T. Johnson

NICHOLAS, William, and Mason, upon entering the mess tent they grabbed tins, filled their plates, and sat on the logs outside. They began to eat what was called by the mess sergeant 'Rations.' The meal consisted of pan-fried grits, corn-fritter pie with

sliced apples from the local groves, fat back, and coffee, all having the tasteful hint of burnt lard.

After finishing their meal, they were escorted to their tent site. They pitched their tent, tended to their horses, and tried to sleep. Their curiosity, anticipation, and the heat of the day made their meal sit heavily in their stomachs, making sleep impossible. They roamed the camp for hours, exploring every detail, while sharing salutations with longtime acquaintances and friends. The day quickly expired, as did the new sights, tastes, and sounds with retreat playing in the distance.

Early the next morning, the three men arouse in pitch dark to the equally pitched sound of reveille. After breakfast, relishing the same prize as yesterdays, they were met by Captain James Rawlings Herbert<sup>5</sup>, NICHOLAS' 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin. While guiding them, he explained what was to happen next.

One of the questions that Mason McKnew, the outspoken one, posed to the Captain was the issue of joining the cavalry. Captain Herbert responded by saying something to the effect, that the cavalry had filled their quota at Point of Rocks, in Frederick County, days before their arrival. This was partially true, but these enlisted men became part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry already forming in Richmond, Virginia. There will be no Maryland Confederate cavalry regiments formed until May of 1862. One exception was Company 'A' that had formed in Richmond. This Maryland component was assigned to Colonel Turner Ashby's Cavalry Regiment, and would later become part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Cavalry.

The three men seemed disappointed as they arrived at the tent of Lieutenant Colonel Deas. Deas was an agent from Richmond in charge of recruiting for the camp. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1861, the three raised their right hand and first took the Oath of Allegiance to the Confederacy. They then signed an enlistment contract for one year. This would later haunt the Confederate high command, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's line officers. On most of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marylander's contracts, next to their signatures, was the hand-scribed statement, 'For the war.'

NICHOLAS was commissioned the rank of 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant<sup>6</sup>, William the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and Mason the rank of Sergeant. All were assigned to Company 'D' commanded by Captain James Rawlings Herbert of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Battalion (CS). This unit would also become known as the *Maryland Line*, so fondly promoted by Major Bradley T. Johnson, but it would be short lived.



Captain James Rawlings Herbert

<sup>5</sup> Captain James Rawlings Herbert is the son of Dr. Thomas Snowden Herbert and Camilla A. Hammond. He is also the grandson of Col. John Carlyle and Mary (Snowden) Herbert. Mary, James grandmother, was the daughter of Major Thomas and Ann Dorsey Ridgley Snowden.

<sup>6</sup> Ref. 4, pg. 14

NICHOLAS was eager to start, as were the others. They were given an abstraction of their duties associated with their rank by their peers. This was rough and complicated, because the Confederate government's regulation soldiers' handbook had not yet been published. The three were quick students and relied on the men with militia experience for interpretations. They adapted well to their men. Later, to retain their ranks, they would have to be voted to those ranks by the enlisted men of their company.

A week later, NICHOLAS, as well as the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion were blessed with overwhelming news and surprises.

First, NICHOLAS received by courier from Richmond a letter from his mother. She was pleased to inform her son that Henrietta had given birth to his sixth child. The child was born on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1861, and named Mary Thomas Snowden. Mary would later marry Charles Dorsey Warfield. Both would become the catalysts by which many of the Snowden and Warfield family histories would pass.

Abraham Lincoln had always displayed a persona of being indifferent to slavery, because members of his family were slaveholders. He only sought to preserve the Union, not to free the slaves at first. Word came that Lincoln did not seek Congress' vote to declare war, but continued to call for volunteers to fill the Union ranks to halt the civil rebellion. Males who did not join or refused to take an Oath of Allegiance to the United States were jailed. At this point, all of NICHOLAS' Pro-Southern male relatives had departed for Richmond to join the Confederacy.

News that came as great concern to the Maryland troops was the stories about of their family's civil liberties being violated. The stories of their homes being searched, weapons being seized, and lists of men being drafted by Federal agents, of those who had fled to the Southern cause, angered the men. Family members who did not cooperate were jailed, including the women and elders of the gray soldiers. The rebels had placed their loved ones in serious jeopardy with their decision.

However, very good news came when Mrs. Johnson arrived with six teamed supply wagons carrying supplies for the troops. A welcome reception by the men greeted Mrs. Johnson. She brought with her over five hundred of the finest 54 caliber Mississippi rifles<sup>7</sup>, that Virginia had to offer, along with bayonets and scabbards. Mrs. Johnson's accompaniment, with the firearms, included swords and sheaths for the officers, ten thousand cartridges, and thirty-five hundred percussion caps.

She also presented the men; with regulation Confederate gray forage caps and uniforms with buttons stamped with the Maryland State Seal, all fully adorned. In a bag she held in her hands, forged by Virginia metal-smiths, were brass Calvert Cross hat and breast pins for their uniforms. These prizes were a welcome sight to the officers and men alike. Included in her bounty were belts, blankets, knapsacks, shoes, socks, tents, undergarments, and hand made haversacks. To their surprise, they were also given drawn brass and pewter belt buckles embossed with the Maryland State Seal.

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<sup>7</sup> The 0.54 caliber U.S. Model 1841 Mississippi Percussion Rifles were issued from the Richmond Virginia Armory.



As for the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's regimental colors, this was a smaller hand embroidered replica of the State Flag of Maryland. Mrs. Johnson presented it to 1st Maryland Battalion, from the women of Richmond. They would carry this flag with pride into battle as a symbol of their patriotism to their home state of Maryland.

Fully outfitted, with the men's morale heightened, they happily accepted the treasures from North Carolina and Virginia. Ironically, they would never see an article of war issued by the State of Maryland for any Maryland unit fighting for the Southern cause.

The week passed quickly for NICHOLAS, as he performed his official duties as an officer with zeal and relished his achievements with the men. The company was lacking manpower to fill the company's complement of 80 to 100 men. NICHOLAS was offered recruiting duty. Accepting this job, he was given a two-week furlough and was directed to enlist as many men as possible from Prince Georges and surrounding counties for Company 'D'. This was a perilous assignment and NICHOLAS knew it. If he were captured, he would face certain prison time at Fort Warren, possibly for the duration of the war.

He first traveled to Point of Rocks where he would meet up with Major Bradley Johnson to determine his personnel requirements. Upon arriving, he heard that his cousin Captain Richard Snowden Andrews was in camp. Richard was destined to become the famous Chief Artillerist for General Pettigrew's Brigade in the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Light (Flying) Artillery (CS) during the Battle of Gettysburg.



Captain Richard Snowden Andrews

Seeking out Richard, NICHOLAS found that Richard was also being sent on a recruiting campaign in Richmond, by way of Baltimore, to establish an artillery battalion. Dressed in civilian attire and mounting local stock they made their way along the National Turnpike to Catonsville outside Baltimore. They arrived at a Pro-Southern safe house where Richard set about recruiting local boys who had expressed their desire to join the cause.

Meanwhile, NICHOLAS continued south to Avondale to see his family and his new baby girl, Mary. He only stayed long enough to catch up with the family and local news, settle some business affairs, and tend to his family's sorrow, because he had to leave so soon to avoid Federal patrols. The patrols could be expected to visit at any hour of the day.

NICHOLAS left elated and joyful that he had this time with his family, but now he had to finish the task he was assigned. He arrived back at the safe house in Catonsville, only to find out that Richard had left before sunup for Fredericksburg, Virginia. NICHOLAS set out on his mission of recruiting by traveling to several counties and enlisting young men for a one-year term. He provided the funds for the boys to get to Frederick,

Maryland by rail, where they would be met by wagons for their final trip to Harpers Ferry.

All totaled NICHOLAS enlisted thirty-seven recruits. Later, he would find out that only twenty-seven of these men would show to enlist. With these new recruits, the ranks of the companies swelled to their minimum complement. Thanks in part to NICHOLAS, Company 'D' had four officers, nine non-commission officers, and eighty-two enlisted. Company 'D' became the largest company of men in the battalion, until iteration due to casualties and sickness reduced it into a mere skeleton of men.



General Joseph E. Johnston

July 1<sup>st</sup> came with orders for the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion to vacate Harpers Ferry and march to Winchester, Virginia. They were attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade to be commanded by General E. Kirby Smith of General Joseph E. Johnston's Army, but for now, they were under the direction of Colonel Arnold Elzey. This brigade included the regiments of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee, 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia, and 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia. The monotony of camp life for the Army of the Shenandoah (CS) resumed. The only relief was the continuous drilling for proficiency of the Maryland companies by Lieutenant Colonel George H. Stewart and continued until the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1861.

July 18<sup>th</sup> would be different for the Army of the Valley. It was the beginning of hardships that would define each man's character, bravery, and honor.

### **'1<sup>st</sup> Manassas'**

Rumor had spread throughout the camp at Winchester that General P. T. Beauregard had entrench his Army of the Potomac (CS), behind breastworks at a place called Manassas Junction to the west of Centerville, Virginia. He was attempting to block any Federal advance towards Richmond by this route. His strategy was to lure them into thinking that if they did not strike him, they would be leaving a sizable force in their rear to attack the Federal capital. The Union command would have to contend with Beauregard's Army first.

On the morning of the July 18<sup>th</sup>, General Joseph E. Johnston, in command of the Army of the Shenandoah (CS) at Winchester, Virginia, received a telegraph from Richmond. It urgently read, "General McDowell and the Federal Army is advancing from the Potomac. With all do dispatch come to the support of General Beauregard at Manassas Junction, *if practical*." He was concerned about another army being shadowed by Colonel JEB Stuart's 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry massing to the west of the Allegheny Mountains. Johnston deliberated over the message for a while. He then decided it was practical, because Stuart's prior reconnaissance report stated that the army to the west posed no immediate threat.

NICHOLAS, the company's officers, and noncoms were preparing for the day's activities when the news came that they would be advancing to support Beauregard. The men of the Company 'D' were cooking their breakfast when NICHOLAS, catching his breath from his haste, brought word that they were to also cook three days' rations. He also informed the men, with enthusiasm, to prepare to march at dusk. This was unusual news, but exhilarating to the men thinking that they would now be able to face the enemy soon.

Camp broke at dusk. The army of 11,000 marched from Winchester through Ashbys Gap then turned south towards Piedmont. The Confederates marched dandily as if on review, with Colonel Thomas Jackson's Brigade leading and Colonel Arnold Elzey's Brigade following. They marched during the heat of the midsummer days and were drenched by pelting rain at night, only stopping at Berryville and Upperville for short rests.

Upon reaching Piedmont Station in the early morning on the 20<sup>th</sup>, General Johnston along with Jackson and his brigade loaded on to the rail cars awaiting them. Johnston firmly believed that his total force would be at Manassas before day's end. It would be the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> before the trains would arrive back at Piedmont from delivering their precious cargo to Manassas. With all promptitude as the trains arrived, Elzey's Brigade immediately began to board the rail cars. After packing themselves, like gray sardines in a can, into the box cars and their heavy equipment on rail cars, the train pulls away from the station slowly gathering steam only hesitating to gather more.



Colonel Arnold Elzey

En-route along the Manassas Gap Railway, they saw the derailed train engines that had collided the day before stacked up along the rail side. They were hampered by delays of their own, with the breakdown of their train's engine. This transportation was not very reliable in its infancy. Clamoring on after this unwanted stop and just before the junction at Manassas, they finally arrived around 2:30pm at the railroad crossing on the Manassas-Sudley Road. The train's engineer stopped at this point, because of earlier instructions given to him from General E. Kirby Smith who was waiting for their arrival. As the brigade disembarked the train, the regiments became entangled and confused. Their greenness was starting to show.

Quickly the officers ordered their companies to form in columns heading north along the roadside. While picking up ammo pouches and grabbing a fresh canteen of water, they dropped their knapsacks and other heavy equipment. Still somewhat chaotic, the Confederates managed to come to attention in column formation as they heard rumbling sounds, like long rolling thunder in the distance.

They marched along the road with General Smith and Colonel Elzey at the head of the columns. Several yards up the road a staff officer from Colonel Jubal Early's Brigade (CS) came galloping up on horseback approaching Smith and Elzey. Stopping, the

officer saluted, and then requested that the general's brigade move at the double-quick to the field of battle while Early's Brigade followed to their rear. Smith agreed to the officer's request and had Elzey give the command. The men of the columns began an orderly race up the road while quenching their parched throats along the way.

As the head of the columns arrived at the crossroads of the Warrenton-Alexandria and Manassas-Sudley Roads, just past a grove of trees, all of sudden shots rang out from the clearing. General Smith fell back limp in his saddle, then falls to the ground. He is severely wounded along with several Marylanders in the forward column by gray cavalry pickets guarding the left rear of the Confederate Army. The troopers were caught off guard by Smith's approaching force. Realizing what happened, General Smith relinquished his command to Elzey with his gauntlet and some hopeful words.

Leaving the fearless Smith and their fellow, Marylanders behind, Elzey, and the column continued until reaching Bald Hill. Here they heard heated musket fire and canon bursts in the near distance. Colonel Elzey, other regimental officers, and Lieutenant Colonel George H. Stewart rode up to the forward crest of the hill to get a better view of the action. It was Colonel Thomas J. Jackson's Confederate Brigade giving Hades to the Union advance on his center at Henry House Hill.

To Colonel Elzey's surprise, he detected a strategic error occurring at the Union's right flank by a few re-enforcing regiments from Colonel William T. Sherman's Brigade (US). Sherman's 69<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> New York Regiments were located to the right of Colonel Oliver O. Howard's Brigade (US) at Colonel Kershaw's 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina's (CS) position on the field of battle. Colonel Howard's Brigade was attempting to turn Colonel Jackson's weakened left flank. Elzey rapidly gave orders to Stewart. The orders were quickly passed to the regiments to form a double battle line at the woods edge at the base of the hill. Then by the double-quick, they would advance to the middle of the wheat field followed by charging the Union's right flank at the point designated by Elzey's outreached hand. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion came up first with fixed bayonets and formed to the right on the edge of the woods. They were followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee and the 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiments, lining up on the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's left. The 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment was ordered to proceed to and guard Manassas Junction.

Advancing rapidly and after two hundred yards through the field of pitted earth caused by exploding cannonade around them, Colonel Elzey gives the command to charge. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion and the other regiments began to charge the right flank of Colonel Howard's Brigade, with their Maryland colors and the Stars and Bars whipping in the wind. As the men of Blue and Gray collided, NICHOLAS' Company 'D' received the harshest blow of all. Three enlisted Marylanders fell critically wounded in a crossfire that they did not expect.

The right side of Howard's Brigade crumbled scattering blue uniforms to the east in confusion. Lieutenant Colonel Stewart began to shore up Colonel Jackson's left flank with the companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion. On Major Bradley Johnson's command they opened fired into the blue mass in front of them. Equal volleys followed this from the other Confederate regiments as they came into line.

Earlier near the Chinn House, Colonel Jubal Early observed the approach of Elzey's Brigade on the Union line. He ordered his brigade to advance perpendicular to the left of Elzey's Brigade. Almost in tandem with Colonel Elzey's movement, Colonel Early's Brigade struck the right rear flank of Howard's Brigade. Colonel Howard's Brigade was driven into chaos as the officers in blue tried to regroup. Regrouping would not help, for the Union Army's right flank was disintegrating.

Company by company then regiment by regiment the whole Union Army was in pandemonium before the citizen onlookers on the heights. They watched in shock and disbelief at the catastrophe before them. The Union Army took to flight with civilians in their midst. Confederate cavalry and infantry units pursued the hordes of men and women all the way to Centerville, Virginia and beyond.

NICHOLAS' first baptism under fire came and went at the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run), Virginia. Major Bradley T. Johnson stated in his report to Colonel Arnold Elzey, "...3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant NICHOLAS SNOWDEN proved to be a gallant and brave officer in this affair at Manassas."

Of the Union Army's total strength of 35,000, they had engaged fewer than 18,000. They faced the Confederates numbering 32,000 with only a little over 18,000 engaged on the field. The sad losses were nearly equal on both sides at 1600 casualties only favoring the Confederates in captured and missing 13 to 1300.

Both the Union and Confederate Armies were ill prepared mentally for the Beast of War, but both faced their foes gallantly. To the Northern populace, they felt as if the war was lost. The Union Army entered the District of Columbia demoralized. The South rejoiced in their army's victory and fully expected England or France's recognition by coming to the South's aid, in their struggle as an independent nation. This recognition would never come.

Meanwhile, Elzey's Brigade remained at Manassas. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion helped both friends and foe with needed care and burial squads before beginning their march to a destination unknown.

### **'Fairfax C.H. to the Shenandoah Valley'**

Two days passed after the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion finished their sorrowful duties at the silent fields near Bull Run Creek. Feeling abandoned by their army, they moved to the village of Manassas and bivouacked on its outskirts. Day and night, drenching rainfall that also washed away the stained red ground of the hallowed battlefield of honor belabored them.

Officers and enlisted alike, had little cover other than their blankets, makeshift lean-tos, and the trees to sleep under. The newly promoted Brigadier General Elzey saw that this only added to the battalion's disillusionment and sinking morale of the men. Why had they not advanced on the Federal capital when they had the advantage? The answer would soon come.

With an unexplained long bugle call to arms near dusk, the men came into formation alarmed. Were they under attack? No. As the men stood in formation, shivering and weary from inactivity in the rain, they were told of their destination. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion would march with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee to join up with Colonel JEB Stuart's 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Cavalry at Fairfax Court House, Virginia. The men felt some relief.

Breaking camp, Colonel Elzey's Brigade marched along the Warrenton Turnpike, towards the District of Columbia, in the soaking rain. To the men's amazement, they observed discarded Union Army equipment cluttering the roadway from the Federal soldier's stampede days prior. Picking from the stores of the overturned supply wagons, they feasted heartily as they arrived at the outskirts of the village of Fairfax. The clouds began to break and clear into cumulus pillows, as rays of warm sunlight course to their faces as if to hail them. The villagers with smiles and cheers welcomed them as they passed through the town to half-a-mile south, where they setup camp near Fairfax Court House. Two weeks passed with no change in the monotony of camp life.

With Colonel Elzey's promotion to Brigadier General, this left the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's command altered. The command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion now fell under George H. Stewart being promoted to Colonel. Stewart was in command now and his plan for the revitalizing his discontented battalion came to actualization. The officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion had known all along that their troops were not at the pinnacle of capabilities. They were still 'green' and not fully trained for the quests that lay ahead of them. The officers also knew they had the material and pride in the men to build a top rate fighting unit.



Colonel George Stewart

Major Bradley T. Johnson was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel for his demonstrated bravery and leadership while keeping the ranks in file under fire. Captain James Herbert knew that in NICHOLAS', with his honorable character, his demonstrated bravery under fire, and the gleaming report by Major Bradley Johnson he had an officer that was destined for a higher appointment. The men of Company 'D' apparently agreed by voting NICHOLAS to the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1861. No longer, would there be a 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant position in the Confederate ranks, for the 1st Sergeant of each company would perform these duties.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion took on the role of providing a base camp, like other base camps, from Dumfries to Leesburg, Virginia. The camps provided Colonel JEB Stuart's Cavalry sanctuary for his reconnaissance patrols. You could say Stuart's troopers acted as point guard for an impending advance of the Union Army now commanded by General George McClellan. This activity would not come until March 1862. McClellan was busy rebuilding the disillusioned soldiers into the new Army of the Potomac (US) around the Federal capital.

The present threat was to the west. This is where Generals Nathaniel Banks' and James Shields' Divisions were massing a formidable army. This army was assembled

for an inevitable duel with General Thomas Jackson now in command of the Army of the Shenandoah (CS) in the Valley. This duel would be for the ownership of this lush treasure of the Confederacy, 'The Shenandoah Valley.'

From August 1<sup>st</sup> through early December of 1861, Colonel George Stewart worked his magic with the companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion. He taught the men the finer art of warfare and teamwork required of a regiment of companies on the battlefield. Through continual tactical training and drilling they were quickly transformed into a cohesive fighting unit, some say the finest and proudest in the Confederacy.

This was probably true, because the companies of the battalion were in constant demand by Colonel JEB Stuart to support his exploits against the Yankees. After numerous scraps with Yankee patrols General Stuart was overheard saying, "The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland troops knew instinctively of what was required, when in the heat of the fight, with no orders needed by me. They're a pride-full bunch they are!" They were moved to Fairfax Station for quarters that are more comfortable and strategic positioning for reasons unknown to the troops.

Colonel JEB Stuart, being promoted to Brigadier General, began pulling his base camps back along the Manassas Gap and Orange-Alexandria Railways. Again, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion occupied the village at Manassas Junction. They lived in small huts erected in an area cleared by the men for winter quarters. This meant more tedium for the hard working soldiers.

Colonel Stewart knew that not all the hard work of his men could go without reward. In December of 1861, the Confederate government passed an act that allowed furloughs for sixty days for any man re-enlisting for another year. This enlistment would start as his old contracts ended.

NICHOLAS and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant William K. Howard took advantage of this generous proposition. As soon as they acquired horses and civilian clothes from the locals, they lit out at dusk for home. Before they left, Captain James Herbert told them that they could only use fifteen days of their sixty-day furlough. The two friends were a little miffed, but spoke to themselves saying, "Fifteen days was better than none at all."

Their route was a treacherous one, for they crossed at the Potomac near the site of the Chain Bridge, north of Georgetown. This was the quickest route home without endangering themselves needlessly by being captured by Yankee patrols in the area. Upon reaching Laurel, the brethren parted company and William Howard continued his journey to Baltimore. This would be the last time the two would be united, as comrades in arms, for William would never return.

NICHOLAS' arrival at Avondale was a joyous surprise to Henrietta and the children. Joined by his family members the following five days would be filled with merriment for their returning hero and loved one. The couple had not shared thoughts by letter for nearly six months, though many were sent, but never received. The time past quickly for NICHOLAS before he had to return. He waited an extra day for William Howard to arrive for their return journey to Manassas, but he never showed. More tragically, this



was the last time NICHOLAS would see the loving faces of his family, including his precious new daughter Mary.

Upon returning by the same treacherous route that he had traversed before, NICHOLAS arrived back at Manassas. While he was gone, the 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia and the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiments were again reunited with the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee after being separated for four months. Exhilarated from his visit home, NICHOLAS settled down into his duties as the only 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in Company 'D.'

It was March of 1862 when General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson's Army (CS) awakened from their winter quarters at Mount Jackson, Virginia. Generals' Nathaniel Banks' and James Shields' Armies (US) had also awakened from their winter quarters at Strasburg, Virginia. General Shields was summoned by General George McClellan (US) to join their armies at Manassas.



General James Shields

Nathaniel Banks' orders were to proceed north to Winchester, Virginia and seize the town, thus securing the lower Shenandoah Valley. This was an attempt to keep General Jackson preoccupied. Jackson would have none of this, for his army was on the march down the Valley Pike. Swiftly, before General Shields could proceed to Manassas, Jackson struck General Banks at Kernstown, Virginia. This action, with pleas from Nathaniel Banks, drew some of General Shields' regiments into the battle.

General Jackson's field officers were given too much leeway in the decision making process. Jackson, not by numerical odds, was defeated and retreated up the Valley. The defeat was caused by second-guessing and poor maneuvering on the field, by the Confederate officers, at critical milestones in the battle. It was Colonel Turner Ashby and his 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry's daringness that kept Jackson's Army from being wrecked permanently. Jackson from then on vowed that he would never consult, nor would he ever provide such latitude to his field officers again.



General Nathaniel Banks

News had spread through the camp at Manassas, of Jackson's defeat in the Valley. The men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion could not believe their ears of the glorious general's defeat. On the same day of this news Brigadier General Elzey was assigned to General P. T. Beauregard's staff as an advisor until he could be reassigned, but for now he fell under Jackson's command. General JEB Stuart and his battalion were assigned to General P. T. Beauregard's Army now occupying Richmond, Virginia. Elzey's Brigade now needed a new general to follow.

Weeks had passed and Manassas proper was completely evacuated by all the brigades in the vicinity. Their new orders were to march to Richmond. Rumor around



camp was that they were going to serve with the famous General Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson in the Valley, but they were going in the wrong direction! Nevertheless, this was music to the ears of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland.

During the next three days, the whole brigade marched along the dusty, hard clay roads, until reaching the waters edge of the Rappahannock River near Falmouth, Virginia. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion stayed behind watching their colleagues continues on to Richmond. To their delight, they were attached to Brigadier General Richard Ewell's Division (CS). They not only had reason to celebrate their new orders, but it was one year to the day on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1861, when most of the lads of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion came to Baltimore's aid. 'Maryland, My Maryland' was sung, gala music was played, and strong drink was consumed, while unknown to them, Ewell's Division would be en-route to the Valley within hours.



General Richard S. Ewell

### **'Campaigning with Stonewall Jackson'**

In the very early morning hours on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1862, like the striking of thunder abruptly came their orders to march. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion troops' ragged appearance in formation upon hearing the news told of their drowsy condition. Marching due west they passed through Culpepper, Virginia then southwest towards Madison Court House. Then they counter-marched back to Culpepper. Confusion filled the ranks. Where were they going?

Finally stopping just south of Culpepper along the railway the battalion went into bivouac. Weary and hungry, here they would stay for three days resting themselves gaining the strength needed for the next four days of their journey. They made their way through Gordonsville then to Swift Run Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion soon learned of their destination. They would be joining General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson at a small village called Conrads Store (Elkton) in Page Valley.



General Thomas Jackson

As they descended Swift Run Gap in the early evening, they could see the dancing lights of campfires in the distance of General Jackson's encamped army. The battalion became joyful with song, singing 'Dixie' as they marched. When they arrived, they settled quickly to sleep in their bedrolls.

The next morning, after the Marylanders awoke and before partaking in breakfast, they set out to greet their new comrades. To their surprise, Jackson's whole army had vanished. Neither General Ewell nor NICHOLAS, who was the acting officer of the guard, knew where Jackson's small army had gone. Jackson's stealth was his strength, strategy, and trademark, for he was a master at tactical deception.

The Valley was a beautiful sight to the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion. The Valley's lush green rolling hills, golden fields of corn, waving chaff of wheat, and the majestic mountains with halos of soft clouds lying at their peaks were visions of peacefulness. The serene image was overwhelming to the men and played on their minds as it reminded them of their home, farms, and loved ones in Maryland not so far away.

Problems started to develop within the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's sullen and unhappy ranks. Enlistment contracts of many of the men within the companies, believing that they had enlisted for only one year, were soon to end. The men's contracts in Company 'C' had already expired and these men were clamoring to be discharged. The Confederate War Department knew they could no longer keep them, because their state was not a member of the Confederacy. Colonel George Stewart and Lieutenant Colonel Bradley Johnson pleaded with the men to remain, but the men would not. The men of Company 'C' were mustered out on May 16<sup>th</sup> along with a few other men from other companies. This wasn't the last episode to occur of what General Jackson termed as 'Mutiny.' The men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland learned later of the hand-scribed condition in their contracts.

The men of the remaining companies were disappointed in not seeing the famed 'Stonewall' himself, but following their misfortune came Mennonites (a Christian group) with a variety and abundance of food. The men feasted well for one week, until news came that Jackson's Army of 6,000 had defeated Brigadier General Milroy's Division at McDowell, Virginia. Milroy's Division, nearly 3,500 strong, was from General Fremont's Corp.

Orders soon came to General Ewell from Jackson, that they were to combine their legions at Luray, Virginia on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. Ewell's Army began their short march to Luray and renewed their encampment. During this time, a major realignment in Ewell's command was taking place. Brigadier General Elzey was assigned to Ewell's Division as the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade commander. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was permanently turned over to Colonel George Stewart on his promotion to Brigadier General. Lieutenant Colonel Bradley T. Johnson was promoted to Colonel to fill the void left by Stewart with the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion falling under his command. Likewise, Captain Edward R. Dorsey of the old Company 'C' was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland, Company 'D'.

As Jackson's Army descended from the gap of the Massanutten Mountain east of New Market, Virginia, they moved into Luray that evening. Ewell met with Jackson for instructions on Jackson's next expedition. General Nathaniel Banks' Division (US) was at Strasburg, Virginia, without the aid of General James Shields' Division (US). Jackson's strategy was to lure Banks to Winchester, Virginia by moving against a smaller garrisoned regiment, having about 1,100 at Front Royal, Virginia. Then they

would either cut off Banks' exit from the Valley and disable him or they would drive him from Virginia to Maryland for good.

Jackson's Corp now numbering roughly 12,000 men marched down the Page Valley. This number included Lieutenant Colonel Thomas S. Flournoy's 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and from General Taylor's Brigade came Major Chatham Robert (Bob) Wheat with his 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana (Tigers) Battalion. The weather was good as the Massanutten Mountain to the west and the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east masked their movements in the late evening. They stopped three miles south of Front Royal.

As dawn broke, Jackson sent orders to Ewell by dispatch. The orders stated, "Colonel Johnson will move the First Maryland to the front with all dispatch, and in conjunction with Wheat's Battalion to develop the enemy's position at Front Royal." By this time, nearly two-thirds of, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion's men were mutinous. Those men, who did not re-enlist under the Furlough Act months earlier, were demanding their discharge. In Colonel Bradley Johnson's view, if this were allowed to happen the ranks, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion would be in ruins. The men disliked him for his resistance, but they did not understand his reasons, also, they did not know of Jackson's orders.

With the ensuing movement against the Federal garrison, Colonel Johnson read the dispatch, but before doing so, he spoke to the men standing idly in formation. "The Maryland Yankees are before you. Boast of it when you meet your fathers and mothers, brothers, sisters and sweethearts. Tell them it was you who, when brought face to face with the enemy, proved yourselves ... to be cowards." The men's first responded in silence, and then cheered the Colonel pleading for the chance to redeem their actions. The Colonel then read the orders, adding, "Jackson wants your help. Shall we give him our full measure?" Cheers filled the air.

Preceding this, Lieutenant Colonel Flournoy's Cavalry and General Jackson's Army split off to the right. This left Ewell's Army anchoring the front of the whole field of battle at Front Royal.

NICOHLAS' Company 'D' trailed by Companies 'A' and 'H' of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion (CS), rushed forth. They formed the spearhead of the advance with a skirmish line. They were followed by the rest of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Companies to their rear, in double battle line formation, as the 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Battalion splits to the right and left in a pincer movement. Coming up from behind for support was the 8<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Regiment commanded by Colonel H. B. Kelly. The massive gray wall began to advance with the fury of hornets, as they headed north along Gooney Manor Road.

As they reached the town's southwest edge, they overran and captured a picket outpost. Continuing through town, the Confederates came upon isolated pockets of Maryland Yankees firing at them. They enveloped the Federals in waves of gray surf lapping at their heels.

Colonel John R. Kenly<sup>8</sup> in command of the Federal troops was not prepared for the onslaught that would soon occur. Upon hearing the pistol and rifle fire in the town below from Camp (Richardson's) Hill above, he called for his single artillery section to slow the Confederates advance. Kenly also sent word by dispatch to Banks informing him of the large Confederate force approaching his position. The battery fired canister and shot, to Colonel Johnson's relief, over the heads of the half crazed 1<sup>st</sup> Marylanders (CS) as they came to within one-hundred yards of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's Volunteers (US) line. With the 1st Maryland Volunteers (US) Regiment was two companies of the 29<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment (US), one dismounted company of the 5<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry (US), and the section of artillery. The 1st Maryland Volunteers (US) ducked for cover behind nature's camouflage as they fixed their gleaming bayonets and fired back. The musket fire only slowed the Confederate skirmishers advance temporarily. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion's (CS) Companies that were following the skirmishers came forward to help.

The Battle of Brothers (Front Royal) had begun. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Confederates were more than willing to serve it to the 'Bogus Marylanders' with compliments from their kin. The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion's (CS) Companies formed into double battle line with the first line kneeling. As the second line stood, they fired their Mississippi's into the hidden ranks of the Federals. The second line moved forward, kneeled, and started reloading as the first line stood up and fired. The clouds of sorties continued, until the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion (CS) came to within 60 yards of the Federal line. Colonel Kenly's troops held, but then the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland (CS) charged his position.

All of a sudden, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Volunteers (US) were hit with crackling musket fire on both their right and left flanks by Major Wheat's split battalion. Colonel Kenly finally realized his troops were being out flanked, as well as outgunned. They retreated across the Shenandoah South Fork Bridge. Colonel Kenly attempted to take a stand, but Jackson's Brigade coming from the west immediately hit him. They then retreated across the Shenandoah North Fork Bridge. Colonel Kenly's rear guard attempted to set fire to the bridge, but this was fouled by one of Jackson's regiments.

Colonel Bradley Johnson halted his Confederate troops after chasing the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Volunteers (US) up to the Shenandoah South Fork Bridge. He was satisfied that their mission was complete.

Fleeing towards Winchester, Colonel Kenly was finally able to make a stand at Guard Hill, but this was also short lived by a crushing frontal assault by Jackson's Army. The Federals continued their retreat towards Cedarville, Virginia, being closely chased by a small band of infantry from Jackson's Army. Without warning, they were caught off guard by Lieutenant Colonel Flournoy's regiment of cavalry coming from the west. Colonel Kenly was forced to surrender his remaining 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Volunteers (US).

Following the surrender of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Volunteers (US), the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion (CS) had the entertaining distinction of guarding over seven hundred of the 'Bogus'

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<sup>8</sup> When Baltimore was placed under marshal law after the riots, under orders from General Benjamin Butler, Colonel John R. Kenly replaced the city's police chief George P. Kane. Kenly's first act was to arrest those in the city that supported the rebellion. Kenly was not well liked in Maryland.

Yankee prisoners. They relished this duty as they shared stories about Maryland with their prisoners.

After the decisive victory at the Battle of Front Royal, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1862, Jackson began his liberation of Winchester. The city was now in the grips of the division of General Nathaniel Banks. Jackson's and Ewell's Divisions struck Banks' Division with half his numbers and struck him hard winning the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Winchester. This sent Banks' Division careening towards the Maryland state line at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Following Banks, Jackson's Army remained encamped at Bolivar Heights until the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1862.

From the heights overlooking the Potomac, NICHOLAS would gaze for hours across the river at the Maryland shoreline, wishing that he could be with Henrietta and his children once again.

### **'Lincoln's Trap'**

Abraham Lincoln faced a dilemma of his own making. Major General George B. McClellan and his 100,000 Federals were located on the Hampton Roads Peninsula. McClellan was facing Major General Joseph E. Johnston's and his 60,000 Confederates protecting their capital at Richmond. General Johnston now needed and summoned Jackson. Jackson delayed Johnston's request for his departure from the Valley, for this would leave it at the mercy of the enemy. Lincoln had allowed McClellan to launch his grand plan 'The Peninsula Campaign' at Richmond. McClellan could do so, as long as he maintained a force in mid-Virginia to protect the Federal capital from invasion. This force was composed of Major General Irvin McDowell's 40,000 Federals. McDowell's large force of blue stretched from Manassas to Fredericksburg, Virginia.

After his defeat at Winchester, Virginia, General Banks requested reinforcements from Lincoln so that he could enter the Shenandoah Valley again. Lincoln, feeling somewhat guilty for removing General Shields when Banks needed him at Winchester, devised a grand plan of his own. The plan was to trap General Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley with the only forces that were available to him, both Generals McDowell's and Fremont's Corps.

Meanwhile, General McClellan had sent orders requesting that 30,000 of McDowell's Federals march from the north to Richmond, with the hope of causing General Johnston's forces to divide. Lincoln intercepted these orders. As McClellan's inactivity and stalemate at Williamsburg, Virginia persisted; the irritated Lincoln requested the use of some of McClellan's forces. With Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief of all Federal forces, what could General McClellan say?

Lincoln knew that if Jackson was not detained or destroyed in the Valley, Jackson would either join General Joseph Johnston at Richmond or march on the Federal capital unobstructed. Lincoln immediately ordered General McDowell to capture the lower Shenandoah Valley and to leave 10,000 of his troops at Manassas to guard the routes leading to the Federal capital.

McDowell moved 10,000 of his troops to Middletown, Virginia under the command of General George Ord. He also moved 20,000 troops under the command of Brigadier General James Shields to Front Royal, Virginia. Shields had instructions from Lincoln to move half his army into Page Valley. Once it was secure, he was to cross the Columbia Bridge and head west through the gap in the Massanutten Mountain. From there, he was to move on to New Market, Virginia. This movement was designed to block all routes through the gaps in the Blue Ridge Mountain range to prevent Jackson from escaping eastward to join General Johnston. It also served as a means to get in Jackson's rear in the Valley.

At the same time, Brigadier General John C. Fremont now at Franklin, (West) Virginia, was ordered by Lincoln to move his force of 15,000 to Harrisonburg, Virginia. General Banks was now reinforced by General Ord and directed to combine their force numbering 21,000 men. Banks' Division could now safely occupy Winchester, Virginia again.



General John C. Fremont

Lincoln's trap, he thought, was set.

General Jackson had already pulled back his main body of Confederates, along with over 2,000 Federal prisoners, to Winchester from Harpers Ferry. To act as his rear guard, he left behind a small band of over 2,000 infantry and cavalry commanded by Brigadier General Charles Winder and Brigadier General Turner Ashby. This band of Confederates also included the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion with the responsibility of providing infantry support to Ashby's Cavalry.

"Where was General Fremont's Army?" Jackson wondered. Jackson had no recent information on his movements. Jackson found Fremont with the help of Ms. Belle Boyd, a female Confederate spy, and the reconnaissance information provided by General Ashby's Cavalry. He also hypothesized Lincoln's snare, as Jackson quickly realized that his army was at great risk. General Fremont's Army marched north from Franklin, (West) Virginia to Moorefield, (West) Virginia instead of east to Harrisonburg, Virginia. He was now heading indirectly east towards Strasburg, Virginia.

Jackson ordered his army to march south rapidly, up the Shenandoah Valley passing Strasburg, Virginia. He did so before Generals Fremont's and Ord's Armies could converge at Strasburg. Colonel Johnson's 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion along with General Ashby's 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry blocked Fremont's Corps swift approach to Strasburg from the west. They tormented Fremont's head columns in the gap at North Mountain. To slow General Ord's Corp and to block any advance from Shields, General Ashby sent the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalries under the command of Colonel Thomas T. Munford and Colonel Thomas S. Flournoy to perform this task.

With enough time allowed by this delay, Jackson continued to retire his army deliberately along the turnpike towards Mount Jackson, Virginia when violent thunderstorms developed. The storms created such torrents of rain that all the roads in the Valley region turned into quagmires of mud. This made traveling the roads nearly impossible for the Federal forces, yet not so impossible for Jackson's 'Foot Cavalry'. The rain would fall for the next four days and slowed the Federals advance to a snail's crawl. Because of the mud-ridden roads, Jackson's Army was afforded the precious time needed to escape farther south from the clutches of Generals Fremont and Ord.

Lincoln's grand plan was unraveled by General Fremont's lack of experience as a field commander and his fear of Jackson's over-estimated strength. Fremont would not hear the end of his violation of orders. General Ord returned his Corp to Front Royal, Virginia. He believed that Fremont and Shields had the situation under control. He would also suffer Lincoln's wrath. The only threat to Jackson's Army now was from the north and east, not from the north, south, and east, as Lincoln had preferred.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Jackson's Army passed Mount Jackson stopping long enough for his troops to rest. He also took the time to formulate a plan of escape and to counter the Union Armies approach. The question arose from one of the officers, "What shall we do with all the prisoners?" Jackson did not speak, but as he read his maps, he pondered the situation.

Meanwhile to the north, Generals Ashby, Winder, and Colonel Johnson had their hands full, dealing with General Fremont's advanced cavalry units.

Ashby, with Winder's blessing, devised his own risky plan of ambush. As Winder's regiments continued south for a mile, Ashby took command of part of Captain James Herbert's Company 'D' of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion and numerous stragglers from along the Valley Pike. The sixty men, partly from NICHOLAS' squad, lined up equal and parallel on opposite sides of the Valley Pike. The stretch of the Valley Pike that Ashby chose for the ambush was highly wooded, rocky, and provided decent cover for his gray highwaymen. In the event, that Ashby's plan failed, Winder took his troops with the rest of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion and formed a single battle line across the Valley Pike.



General Turner Ashby

Ashby and a squad of his cavalry rode north to provoke the Federal cavalry to chase them south through the trap. The lead company of the Federal cavalry took the decoy. As Ashby's squad galloped south, followed by the Federals, they passed through the trap. As the Federals came into the Confederate's keen sight, the gray highwayman fired their worn Mississippi's at near point blank range. The men in blue, on the first wave of Confederate fire, were startled and confounded as many of them fell wounded from their rearing horses.

The Confederate infantry continued their rapid and marked fire as more Federal cavalry arrived at the scene, suffering from their stinging welcome. Ashby's Cavalry squad,

upon reaching a safe point, turned his cavaliers and charged back up the turnpike rushing head on, with wet swords gleaming, into the confused blue troopers. As Federal cannonade broke loose over their heads, Ashby's troops cut a furrow through the Federals sending them in panicked flight back up the Valley Pike. Ashby's risky scheme was so successful that the advance of General Fremont's troops would become more vigilant. This action would keep Fremont's Army at bay down the turnpike.

Jackson's plan was simple, but it would have to be carried out with quickness to gain the upper advantage. First, the guarded prisoners were to continue their southward march, not stopping until they reached Harrisonburg, Virginia. The guards were given orders to shoot any man, Union, or Confederate that became stragglers. Upon reaching Harrisonburg, minimal guards for the prisoners were to be posted. When the Federals reached Harrisonburg, the prisoners were to be released. This would create a diversion long enough to determine the Union Army's position and numbers. Second, Ashby's command would have to be separated to provide coverage on two fronts. Third, Ashby's troops would have to burn three bridges in the paths of the advancing forces. Finally, Ashby's Cavalries would converge on Harrisonburg, Virginia as Jackson's Army turned south on Port Republic Road. Ashby would also continue to provide rear guard support for Jackson's Legions. Jackson would then march towards Cross Keys leaving General Ewell's Division to face Fremont. Jackson's Corp would continue onto Port Republic, where he would make his stand against Shields. If the Federal Armies were willing to fight, Jackson would be ready. The success of these maneuvers all depended on Ashby's Brigade.

As Generals Ashby, Winder, and Colonel Johnson's regiments pulled slowly back up the Valley Pike, word came to Winder of Jackson's plan. Winder consulted with Johnson and Ashby, as the commanders all agreed that it was the only course of action if they were to escape the Valley.

Ashby first gave orders to Captain S. B. Conyer to take two companies of the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry to Page Valley. Here, he was assigned to destroy the White House and the Columbia Bridges crossing the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. These bridges were on the only two paths across the Massanutten Mountain leading to Mount Jackson and New Market, Virginia. After Conyer laid waste to the structures on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, he was on his way back to Mount Jackson when a courier came with orders for him to also destroy the bridge at Conrads Store (Elkton). He did, as he was ordered and just in time. General Shields' spearhead brigade led by General Carroll had arrived. Having rained so heavily, this kept Carroll and the rest of Shields' Corp from crossing the swollen river for six days.

Ashby then ordered the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry led by Colonel Thomas Flournoy to ride north on the Valley Pike to intercept General Fremont's Corp. He was instructed to press Fremont's forward columns hard, then retreat across the North Fork of the Shenandoah River at Mount Jackson, Virginia, and burn the bridge behind them. It would take three days for Fremont to move his army farther south, because the flooded river kept washing out his pontoon bridges.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry led by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Munford was instructed by Ashby to help move the Federal prisoners at full speed towards Harrisonburg, Virginia. They were becoming a nuisance and an impediment to Jackson's speedy forward columns. This responsibility fell into Lieutenant Colonel James W. Watts' hands.

By June 5<sup>th</sup>, all missions were successful endeavors by Ashby's men, as Jackson passed through New Market along the Valley Pike then onward towards Harrisonburg, Virginia. The rain still fell gently as Jackson's Division turned south on Port Republic Road heading towards Cross Keys, followed by Ewell's Division. Jackson was now in a safe position, having more than enough time now to set his divisions up for battle, at least that is what he thought. General Turner Ashby's next risky, almost reckless, but heroic action would change Jackson's perspective of him and the lives of the men in the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion.

### **'The Battle of Harrisonburg, Virginia'**

As the rain withdrew on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1862, General Ewell's Division goes into bivouac along the Port Republic Road just north of Cross Keys, Virginia. Jackson's Division proceeds further south on Port Republic Road and bivouacs on the outskirts of Port Republic, Virginia.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion leads the way as General Ashby's 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry rides through the streets of Harrisonburg, Virginia. As Ashby passes Lieutenant Colonel Watts of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, he orders the release of the Federal prisoners held under guard in Harrisonburg's nearby town square. The Union men, many from the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Volunteers (US) are stunned and then elated as the news comes. The hungry men are told to march northeast on the Valley Turnpike in the direction of General Fremont's advance. They happily did as they were told.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion goes into camp in a field of tall grass four miles south of Harrisonburg along the east side of Port Republic Road. Ashby's Cavalry is a short distance to the north in a track of woods. Lieutenant Colonel Watts' Company pulls picket duty that evening and spans his men by twos across Port Republic Road.

The hurdles that the men in gray had taken in 'Jackson's Valley Campaign' over the past eight days, afforded little time for the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's officers and men to reflect on their loved ones they had left behind in Maryland. The married men, like NICHOLAS, are particularly homesick having heard nothing for months. The Federal government had seen to that by cutting off all private communications to the South from Maryland. The men are exhausted and wet. The night fell quickly as they made their campfires from damp wood that they could barely set afire. They bedded down early on the sodden grass for they are to resume their march early the next morning to join Ewell's Division.

As dawn broke, the troops of all the camps arouse early to hastily prepare their breakfast, when in the near distance an unexpected crackling of rifle and pistol fire from the north broke the steady hum of the now alert camps.

Federal cavalry attacked James Watts' pickets. They are caught off guard by Brigadier General George D. Baynard's forward cavalry regiments of Fremont's Corp. The 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey and the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Cavalry units are commanded by Colonel Percy Wyndham and Major David Nelson (detached from Shields' Corp). To Wyndham and Nelson's rear is the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry led by Colonel Owen Jones.

To the far northeast at the base of Chestnut Ridge come two more cavalry units, the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Virginia and 6<sup>th</sup> Ohio Regiments led by Captain Everton Conger and Colonel William Lloyd. Preceding their advance is the artillery battery of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine commanded by Captain James Hall. In front of this motion of blue is a small battalion of four large companies guiding the way. They are the 13<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves, also known as the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Rifles, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry, or better known by their nickname the 'Bucktails.' This band of proficient sharpshooters, by whatever title they preferred, is composed of woodsmen and hunters who enlisted at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The steadfast Colonel Thomas L. Kane commands the 'Bucktails'.

Watts' pickets and Munsford's 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry are driven back into the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry's camp, as the 6<sup>th</sup> begins to return fire from their pistols and shotguns into the oncoming Union cavalry. During this time, Ashby's 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry Regiment is totally taken by surprise by the foray. His troopers unsaddled their mounts to rest them that night. He finally organizes his regiment to attack, while the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry keeps the Federals at bay.

Ashby's Cavalry, in madness, crashes through the ranks of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Confederate Cavalries battle line. His regiment gallops head on into the now dazed Federals followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalries. Complete confusion breaks out on the road as Ashby's regiment clashes and then drives the Federals to within two miles of Harrisonburg. The Federals quickly recuperate from the excursion, as they turn the mane of their mounts and charge again with reinforcements from the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry. This causes Ashby's 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry Regiment to retreat in haste down Port Republic Road passing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalries.

The Union cavalry comes on again, with blades drawn and smoking pistols blazing, as it is the entangled 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalries turn counter-charge. They did so and in the rout; they drive the Federals back to within a one-mile of Harrisonburg, Virginia. Ashby orders Colonel Munsford's 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, along with Company 'A' of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Cavalry led by Captain Ridgley Brown, to continue their pursuit of the Union trooper's hasty retreat. The 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry is to be their support. The Confederates pursue the Federals to within a half-a-mile of the town and then they retire.

Excited at his victory, Ashby, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry sets off down Port Republic Road. He left the other Confederate cavalry units to contend with the troublesome Federal cavalry. Before leaving, Ashby instructs Colonel Flournoy that the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry should maintain a reconnaissance on the Federal position. His orders also included, that unless Flournoy is provoked he was not to engage the enemy and that when he retires south on Port Republic Road he is to guard Ashby's rear and right flank.

In the distance to the northeast, Colonel Flournoy sees a contingent of two Federal cavalry regiments that looks lost or forlorn. What Flournoy did not spot, hidden by some woods, but Ashby did, is a battalion of Federal infantry passing across a freshly tilled field.

Ashby did not want to leave without a fight and he is determined to ambush the Federals. He sends a courier to General Richard Ewell requesting infantry units to ward off the intruders. Meanwhile, Colonel Flournoy stops the solitary Union cavalry units of the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Virginia and 6<sup>th</sup> Ohio, who gives no resistance in return. This action by the gray horse soldiers separates the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine Artillery and the 13<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves ('Bucktails') from their cavalry support.

In the meantime, as the echoing sounds of rifle fire ebb in the distance, Company 'A' of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion commanded by Captain William. W. Goldsborough sees an escort of prisoners coming into view from the north on Port Republic Road. In front of the assembly, Goldsborough can see a gallant looking Union officer flipping his gauntlets from hand to hand and then slapping them against his thigh at his misfortune. As this officer continues his exercise, Colonel Bob Wheat of the 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Battalion comes galloping up with a smile. As he brings his war horse to a still tether, he dismounts and extends his hand to the officer saying, "Why, Percyl!" The officer, being Colonel Percy Wyndham of the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Cavalry, replies in a disgruntled manner, "Why, Bob!"

The two men, being old friends, begin to exchange pleasantries as they sit on a fallen rail fence, when a Confederate cavalry officer rides up to Colonel Bradley Johnson. Johnson sees something slung over the rider's shoulder shining brightly in the early sun. As Johnson and the cavalry officer converse, other line officers begin to gather around. The line officers overhear the conversation between them saying, something to the effect, that the Union officers were found wearing 'Iron Breast Plates' similar to the ones they had captured at Winchester. The Confederate cavalry officer then states that he has personally seen "Some of them Yankee officers skedaddling with them lashed on their Blue backs at Winchester!" They all chuckled at the visualized sight as shots ring out in the distance again. Fearing an assault on his position, Colonel Johnson orders his soldiers to "Attention!"

Ewell reluctantly agrees to Ashby's request for support. He gives Ashby command over the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion Companies 'D', 'G', and the regiment of the 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia, led by Colonel Letcher. General Ewell not fully convinced that Ashby is properly supported, orders Ashby's Artillery Battery commanded by Captain R. P. Chew to move to the center on the slope of Chestnut Ridge. There is no good artillery position to be found by Captain Chew, because the woods are too densely populated with trees to give a good field of view for discharging his field guns. Captain Chew makes the best of the position he selected by falling trees before him with axes. For added support, Ewell also sent Colonel William Scott's remaining brigade consisting of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantries. Along with Colonel Scott's Brigade, Colonel Johnson's 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion follows. They are told to position themselves in reserve, on the left and perpendicular to Ashby's front, along the south base of the ridge near Port Republic Road.

Companies 'D' and 'G' commanded by Captains James Herbert and Wilson Nicholas is ordered to form a skirmish line so that they will face the front of the on coming Federal battalion. Meanwhile, Ashby and the 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia form into a single battle line and file behind the Marylanders as they approach a wooded strip. They file in line into the woods, above the base of the slope of Chestnut Ridge, extending themselves to the east desiring to flank the Federal battalion.

The 'Bucktails' are not surprised after hearing the earlier warlike activity to the west of their position. They form into a skirmish line and hide themselves behind the split rail fence, along the craggy mud road, in a field near the base of the ridge.

Ashby's force descends the slope as the Pennsylvania 'Bucktails' opens a deadly, hot fire into the ranks of the Maryland skirmishers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine Battery opens up their field pieces as well, sending a cannonade of solid shot before the Confederate ranks. This initially staggers the Marylander's line by the Maine and Pennsylvanians' fire. The Maryland skirmishers quickly form their own small battle line with balls zipping by, when Ashby sees that the 'Bucktails' battle line extends well beyond the Marylander's line. Ashby moves the 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia to the Marylander's right flank. After a few minutes under heavy fire, they slowly retire back up the slope of the ridge to reform.

General Ashby, still on horseback, rides forward to lead his force of men himself. He yells at the top of his lungs, "CHARGE!" The men dash down the slope through the rocky dense woods after him. As they again descend the slope, the Federals take deliberate aim at the oncoming Rebels and discharge their firearms repeatedly into the ranks of gray. As the fighting continues, Ashby's horse is shot from under him. Ashby collides with the ground trapping his leg only momentarily under his horse. Working himself loose from his dead mount, the General leaps to his feet whirling his saber<sup>9</sup> and orders the men to follow him when shots ring out from the field afar. In a short second, his saber's tip is shattered as Ashby rolls to the ground being killed instantly by enemy fire.

The men of the 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia now led by Colonel Letcher, levels their smooth bores at the 'Bucktails' line and fires repeatedly as they continue their advance. Upon reaching the closest point to the 'Bucktails' left flank, the men of the 58<sup>th</sup> is raked by a crescendo of lead balls colliding into their gray ranks. Colonel Letcher soon realizes, as well as his line officers, that they are in a suicidal counter-fire. The Colonel quickly sends orders down the line for the men to take cover in the tree line to their rear. For the second time, after being pushed back, the Confederates take cover in nature's fortress closer to the 'Bucktails' line. Both the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion Companies 'D' and 'G' along with the 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia is now pinned down by the Pennsylvanians fire in their front and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine's cannonade to their rear. Only by a miracle, thought NICHOLAS, will they escape this hell-fire. The deadly fire continues as NICHOLAS can hear the hissing of the minie balls as they collide into rocks near him with a dull thud. The sounds of the crackling and splintering of branches being sheared by unseen axes from the trees around him is unsettling. The miracle was soon too come.

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<sup>9</sup> General Turner Ashby carried an 1840 Model Dragoon Saber.

Earlier, riding up to Captain Chew's poor battery position on Chestnut Ridge, Ewell sees below the blistering chaos unfolding. Captain Chew apologizes sorrowfully to Ewell, saying, "I have no effective fire to give, for I fear I will hit our own!" Through his field glasses, Ewell sees the gallant cavalier Ashby fall. Ewell quickly surmises that if his Confederates below were not reinforced immediately then all would be lost. Ewell and his staff gallop down the ridge towards the reserve units on Port Republic Road. As Ewell reaches Colonel Johnson's position, Ewell exclaims, "Charge with the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland, Colonel Johnson, and end this miserable affair!"

Colonel Johnson calls his 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion to their feet. With the swiftness of cats, they file into formation and march at the double-quick by the same route General Ashby took earlier. Arriving at the middle of the ridge, while being shelled by explosive shot from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine's Battery, they find themselves above their entrenched friends. Colonel Johnson gives the command for his Confederates to face their foe and charge.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion sweeps down the rocky incline with fixed bayonets gleaming, firing their Mississippi's at will, as they approach their ensnared friends. As the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion advances to the skirmish line of Companies 'D' and 'G', the trapped companies stand and fire their own volley at the 'Bucktails.' When the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion charges in a rush through Companies 'D' and 'G', the two companies are enveloped into the battalion's forward movement.

In the commotion, Johnson is suddenly thrown, crashing to the ground, having his horse shot through the head while stumbling forward. The Colonel regains his composure and continues to lead his glorious battalion in the charge. With Company 'D' in the midst of Company 'I', they reach and breach the split rail fence. The staggered Pennsylvanians stood and sent a galling fire into the gray ranks showing them no misery. Colonel Thomas Kane shows the Rebels no forgiveness, either, as he continues to order more scouring volleys into the forward Confederate companies as his Pennsylvanians and the Marylanders come face-to-face.

In the next few minutes of thundering lethal fire, what seems like an eternity to NICHOLAS, while dashing head on into a blast of bullets from the 'Bucktails' rifles, NICHOLAS falls mortally wounded. His body is penetrated by lead balls less than 100 yards to the west and in front of General Ashby's fatal incident. At the same instant, Captain Michael S. Robertson of Company 'I' falls wounded shot through the inner thigh shattering his right leg and severing the artery. Robertson bleeds to death on the field as the conflict soon ends.

For a half-an-hour, the Confederates keep up the attack taking considerably more casualties. At last, the diminished ranks of the men of the 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia charge and strike the left flank of the 'Bucktails', folding the 'Bucktails' back into themselves. The Marylanders and Virginians finally drive the Pennsylvanians from their wooden stronghold. While capturing the wounded Colonel Kane, the Colonel could be heard cursing, "Come back, come back you ...!" The 'Bucktails' retreat in defeat and flee the field of battle towards Harrisonburg.

On June 6, 1862, as the shadowy field of Blue and Gray falls silent with a late summer breeze, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN at age 34, dies bleeding from his wounds in the arms of his 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, Captain James Rawlings Herbert at the Battle of Harrisonburg, Virginia. Captain Robertson and Lieutenant Snowden are the first two 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland line officers to give their lives in battle.

In the following hours before darkness descends, the trooper's of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalries cares for the Confederate and Union wounded. The fatigued cavaliers carry most of their comrades from the field astride their horses, bring them south for burial and care at the Union Church Cemetery on Port Republic Road. NICHOLAS is buried in the church's cemetery along with his compatriots.

After the Battles of Cross Key and Port Republic, fought on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion marches across the Blue Ridge Mountains and goes into camp. The Maryland Line is now reduced to a shell of men. After five days of repose and substantial rations at Weyers Cave south of Port Republic, the unit's commanders received orders to reconstruct the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland at Staunton, Virginia.

## **'Epilogue'**

The war would wage on for three more years, but for NICHOLAS and his fallen Maryland brethren their lives ended giving the ultimate sacrifice for an eternity.

Unsuccessful in his recruitment and reorganization efforts, Brigadier General Bradley T. Johnson would not be able to rebuild the Maryland Line. Shortly afterwards, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion was ordered to Gordonsville, Virginia to be disbanded. On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 1862, the battalion was mustered out of service. Never would there be another Maryland Line such as this. The small regimental Maryland Flag would be presented to Mrs. Bradley T. Johnson, in remembrance of her kindness to the Battalion's men. Most of the officers and enlisted men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion would join other Confederate infantry and cavalry regiments dedicated in fighting for the Southern cause. Eventually, through General Bradley T. Johnson's persistence, he would form the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland Infantry Regiment (CS.) This regiment would continue to fight for the Southern cause winning the admiration of all for their gallant exploits.

Later, after the Battle of Port Republic, General Bradley Johnson in his official report to General Ewell, wrote, "I lost Captain M. S. Robertson, Company 'I', a gallant officer, who fell at the head of his men in a charge, shouting, 'Go on, my men; don't mind me!' Here also fell Second Lieutenant NICHOLAS Snowden, a true and brave soldier, who died as became his life, in the arms of victory, with his face to the foe. Near him fell the chivalrous Ashby. ..."

In July of 1862, Henrietta would hear of the sad fate of her husband, by dispatch from Captain James Herbert in Virginia. Henrietta would continue to care for her smallest children and ailing mother-in-law at Avondale. NICHOLAS' mother, Elizabeth, sadly passed away on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1866. After attending to her husband's and her mother-in-

law's affairs, Henrietta moved from Avondale to be with her parents' in their home at Engleside.

Many months later, after NICHOLAS' death, General Bradley T. Johnson would forward a recommendation that NICHOLAS receive a posthumous promotion of Brevet Major. Johnson's recommendation, counter-signed by General Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson, was granted by the Confederate War Department. The date is unknown when NICHOLAS' promotion was issued. This is probably because many of the Southern soldiers' records were destroyed when the City of Richmond was set on fire in April of 1865, while under Federal occupation.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1884<sup>10</sup>, NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN's remains and headstone were removed from Union Church Cemetery in Virginia and transported to Baltimore, Maryland. He was re-interred at Loudon Park Cemetery, Row E, Grave #55, in a section of the cemetery known as Confederate Hill. To match the level of the other soldier's stones in the cemetery his head marker was buried deep. A second marble marker was placed at Confederate Hill, in remembrance of his service to the Confederacy.

Henrietta Stabler Snowden died at the age of 78 on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1907. She is buried in the Quaker Cemetery at the Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting House in Maryland.

I firmly believe and leave it to your imagination, that if our country had not entered into this great conflict this nation would not be the great nation it is today. In the words of Shelby Foote, the Civil War author, simply stated, 'The conflict then, defined us as a nation!'

Whether you believe NICHOLAS was right or wrong about his beliefs in the War for Southern Independence, he stood up for the principles of a free and honorable nation; something that seems to escape our thoughts today. In fighting for the Southern cause for a free nation, to maintain a strong state sovereignty; to retain the rights of free and independent people; and to restrict centralized intrusive government, NICHOLAS acted upon what he felt strongly about, even if it meant giving the last full measure with his life.

I hope you will feel the pride, as I do, in having such an honorable ancestor as  
**Lt. NICHOLAS N. SNOWDEN, CSA.**

*James E. Bebermeyer*

James Emerson Bebermeyer, Sr.  
March 15, 2000

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<sup>10</sup> Source 2. Date is according to Loudon Park Cemetery records provided by Mr. Robert C. Larson.





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# Appendix

A letter from NICHOLAS to his mother, Elizabeth.

Georgetown College Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1846

Dear Mother,

As it has been nearly a month since I left home for the college. I think it is high time for me to commence the fulfillment of the promise I made to write oftener. For when persons are separated by distance, & prevented from seeing each other & conversing together, a letter is no bad substitute for these advantages & gives consolation & pleasure. Of course, you cannot expect to find much news in my letter as our life here is the same thing day after day and, as it were, deprived of all communication with the rest of the world. Yesterday was a day of pleasure to some of the boys who took a pleasant Sleigh-ride to congress; the sleighing was indeed remarkably good. you may have heard of it was fine fun for the southerners who had never seen & enjoyed the like before. I expect Mr. Capron is out in his sleigh every day & is determined to make the most of the snow.

Sister Ann came up to the college this morning, & told us among other things, that Sister Emma had increased her family, & that Mr. John Capron had undertaken the management of the store for the next three months. I would like to know if the factory has made a dividend? & if it has of what percent.

Half of the scholastic year has already gone; & it seems to me that time goes very swiftly; a middle examination is nearly here. If you have received my letter when you write tell me some-about it if you please. Emily is in city, but she did not come to the college, however she sent me a very fine green silk purse.

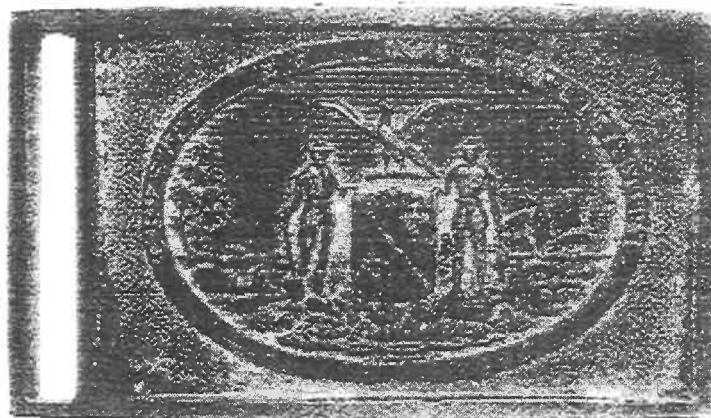
Give my love to Eliza, Sister Mary, Mother Edward, Arthur &

Your affectionate son, Nicholas Snowden



# **The Life and Times of Lt. Nicholas N. Snowden, CSA.**

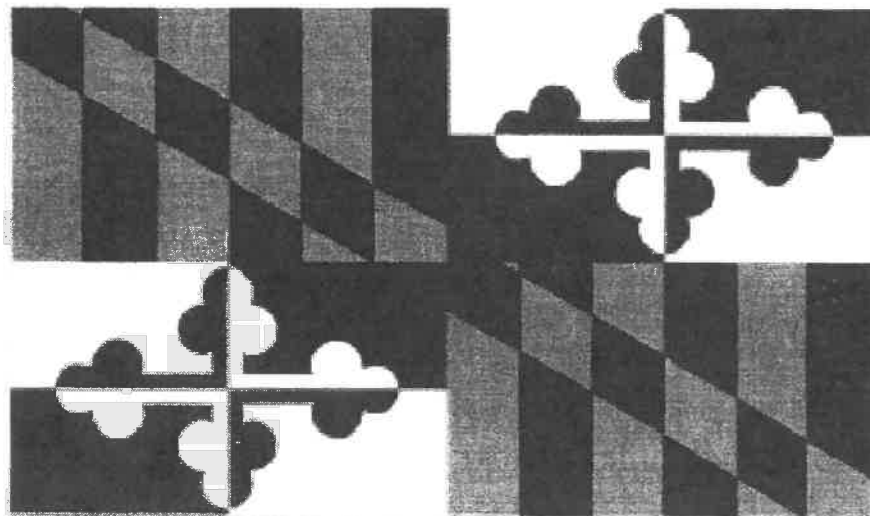
## **Artifacts of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Battalion (CS)**



**1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Battalion (CS) Belt Buckle**



**1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry  
Battalion (CS)  
Coat Button**



**1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Battalion (CS) Regimental Colors**



# The Life and Times of Lt. Nicholas N. Snowden, CSA.

## Union and Confederate Army Structures

### Infantry Structure

Infantry  
2 - 5 Corps  
or  
40000 - 80000 persons

Corps  
2 - 5 Divisions  
or  
9000 - 30000 persons

Division  
2 - 5 Brigades  
or  
3200 - 8000 persons

Brigade  
2 - 5 Regiments  
or  
1200 - 3000 persons

Regiment  
10+ Companies  
or  
300 - 1000 persons

Company  
2 - 3 Platoons  
or  
50 - 150 persons

### Cavalry Structure

Division  
2 - 5 Brigades  
or  
4000 - 18000 persons

Brigade  
2 - 5 Regiments  
or  
1200 - 3800 persons

Regiment  
1 - 10 Companies  
or  
400 - 1000 persons

Troop or Company  
40 - 100 persons  
and horses

### Artillery Structure

Battalion  
2 - 5 Batteries  
120 - 400 persons  
12 - 30 guns  
50 - 300 horses

Battery  
4 - 6 Sections  
40 - 100 persons  
4 - 6 guns  
70+ horses

Section  
-  
8 persons  
1 gun  
12 horses

Battalion  
2 - 8 Companies  
or  
200 - 800 persons

Platoon  
2 - 3 Squads  
or  
20 - 45 persons

Squad  
-  
4 - 15 persons





# The Life and Times of Lt. Nicholas N. Snowden, CSA.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry organization on June 25<sup>th</sup> 1861

|                                    |                         |                            |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Army of the Shenandoah             | Joseph E. Johnston      |                            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Brigade            | Arnold Elzey            | Colonel                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion | George H. Stewart       | Lieutenant Colonel         |
|                                    | Bradley T. Johnson      | Major                      |
| Acting Adjutant                    | Frank X. Ward           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
| A Company                          | William W. Goldsborough | Captain                    |
|                                    | George K. Shellman      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Charles W. Blair        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | George M. E. Shearer    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant |
| B Company                          | Charles C. Edelin       | Captain                    |
|                                    | James Mullen            | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Joseph Griffin          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Thomas Costello         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant |
| C Company                          | Edward R. Dorsey        | Captain                    |
|                                    | Robert C. Smith         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Septimus H. Stewart     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | William P. Thomas       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant |
| D Company                          | James R. Herbert        | Captain                    |
|                                    | George W. Booth         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | William K. Howard       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Nicholas N. Snowden     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant |
| E Company                          | Harry McCoy             | Captain                    |
|                                    | Edmund O'Brien          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | John J. Lutts           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | John Cushing Jr.        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant |
| F Company                          | John L. Smith           | Captain                    |
|                                    | William D. Hough        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | William J. Broadfoot    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Joseph H. Stewart       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant |
| G Company                          | Wilson C. Nicholas      | Captain                    |
|                                    | Alexander Cross         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Edward C. Deppish       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    |                         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant |
| H Company                          | William H. Murray       | Captain                    |
|                                    | George Thomas           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Frank X. Ward           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant |
|                                    | Richard T. Gilmore      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant |

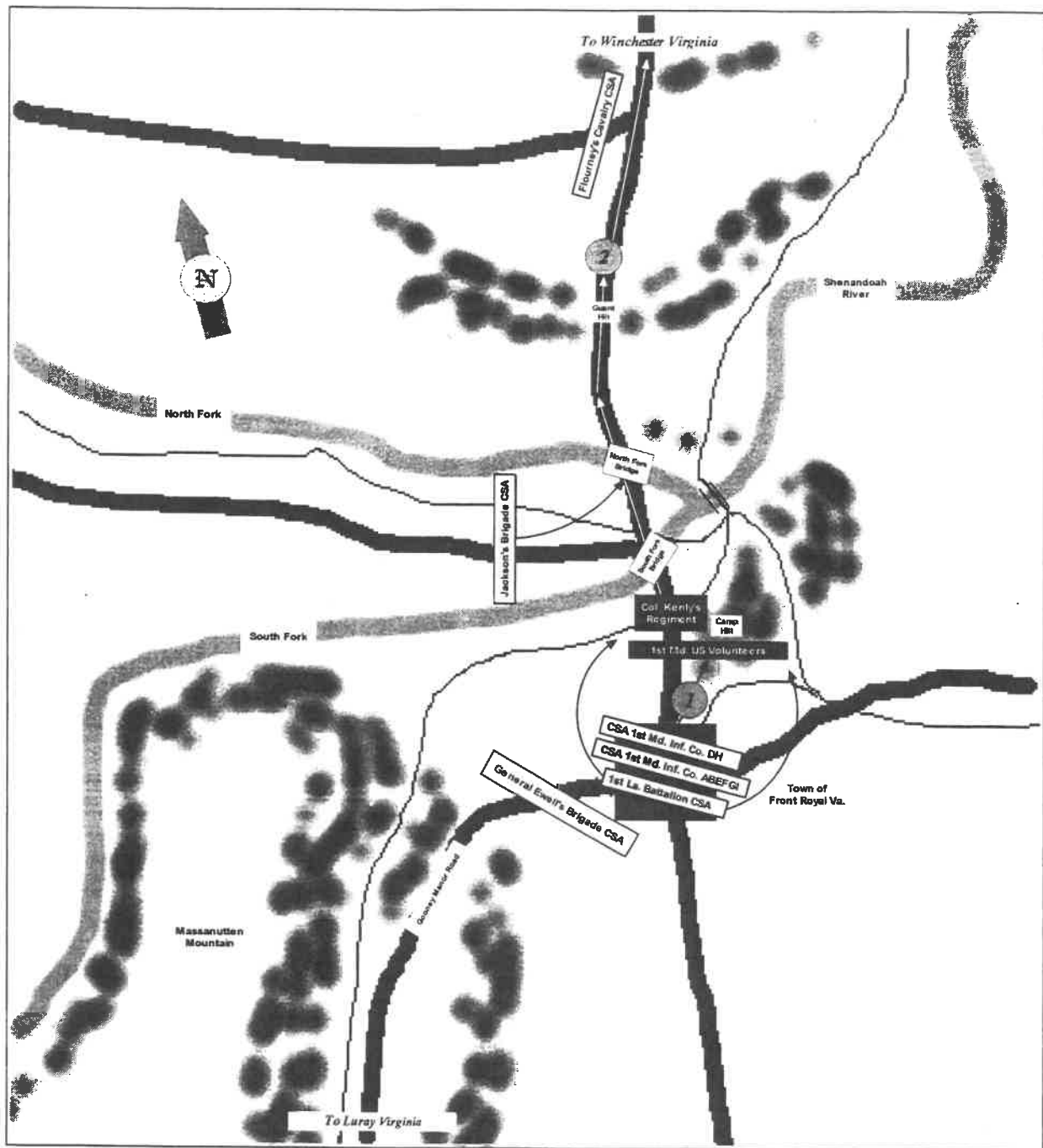
Companies 'C' and 'H' were formed in Richmond, Va.

Only eight Companies made up the battalion until Company I arrived while the battalion performed duties around Fairfax Court House. Ten companies were required to make up a regiment.



# The Life and Times of Lt. Nicholas N. Snowden, CSA.

## Battle Map of Front Royal, Virginia, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862



1. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Confederate forces spearheaded by the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Battalion and 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Battalion struck and overran Federal pickets in the town Front Royal, Virginia. On the heights above the town, a Union regiment, the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland US Volunteers of 1,100 men under the command of Colonel Kenly was garrisoned. Colonel Kenly was not ready for the onslaught that was about to occur. Kenly's regiment while forming into battle line formation, his small artillery battery began lobbing canister at the oncoming wave of Confederates in an attempt to slow them as they hit their front.

2. After strong resistance from Kenly's men and realizing they were out flanked, they retreated across the South Fork then the North Fork Bridges, where an attempt was made to destroy the later but was fouled. As Kenly set up his battle line formation on the heights above the North Fork Bridge, he was again hit hard by a contingent of General Jackson's Brigade on Union's regiments right. Colonel Kenly was now unmistakably outnumbered as he retreated to Cedarville. Catching Kenly's remaining troops off guard, they were then hit again by Major Flourney's Cavalry on their right. He then surrendered. Nearly Seven-Hundred Federal prisoners were taken. The Battle of the Brothers ended.



# The Life and Times of Lt. Nicholas N. Snowden, CSA.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry Organization on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1862

|                                    |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Army of the Shenandoah             | Thomas T. Jackson  | Major General   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division           | Richard S. Ewell   | Major General   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade            | George H. Stewart  | Brigadier General   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Maryland Battalion | Bradley T. Johnson <sup>1</sup><br>Edward R. Dorsey  | Colonel<br>Lt. Colonel<br>Major   |
| Acting Adjutant                    | George W. Booth Co. D<br>Frank X. Ward Co. H   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant  |
| A Company                          | William W. Goldsborough<br>George K. Shellman<br>John F. Groshon<br>John F. Groshon <sup>1</sup> | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |
| B Company                          | Charles C. Edelin<br>James Mullen<br>Joseph Griffin<br>Peter Boyle                               | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |
| C Company                          | Robert C. Smith<br>Septimus H. Stewart<br>William Smyth<br>William Smyth <sup>2</sup>            | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |
| D Company                          | James R. Herbert<br>George W. Booth<br>Nicholas N. Snowden<br>George F. Ruff                     | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |
| E Company                          | Harry McCoy<br>John J. Lutts<br>Joseph G. W. Marriott<br>George G. Raborg                        | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |
| F Company                          | John L. Smith<br>William D. Hough<br>Joseph H. Stewart   | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |
| G Company                          | Wilson C. Nicholas<br>Alexander Cross<br>Edward C. Deppish<br>John J. Platt                      | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |
| H Company                          | William H. Murray<br>George Thomas<br>William P. Zollinger                                       | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |
| I Company                          | Michael S. Robertson<br>Hugh Mitchell<br>Eugene Diggs<br>John Bawner                             | Captain<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sergeant |

Companies 'C', 'H', and 'I' were formed in Richmond, Va.

Company C was discharged on May 16<sup>th</sup> 1862.

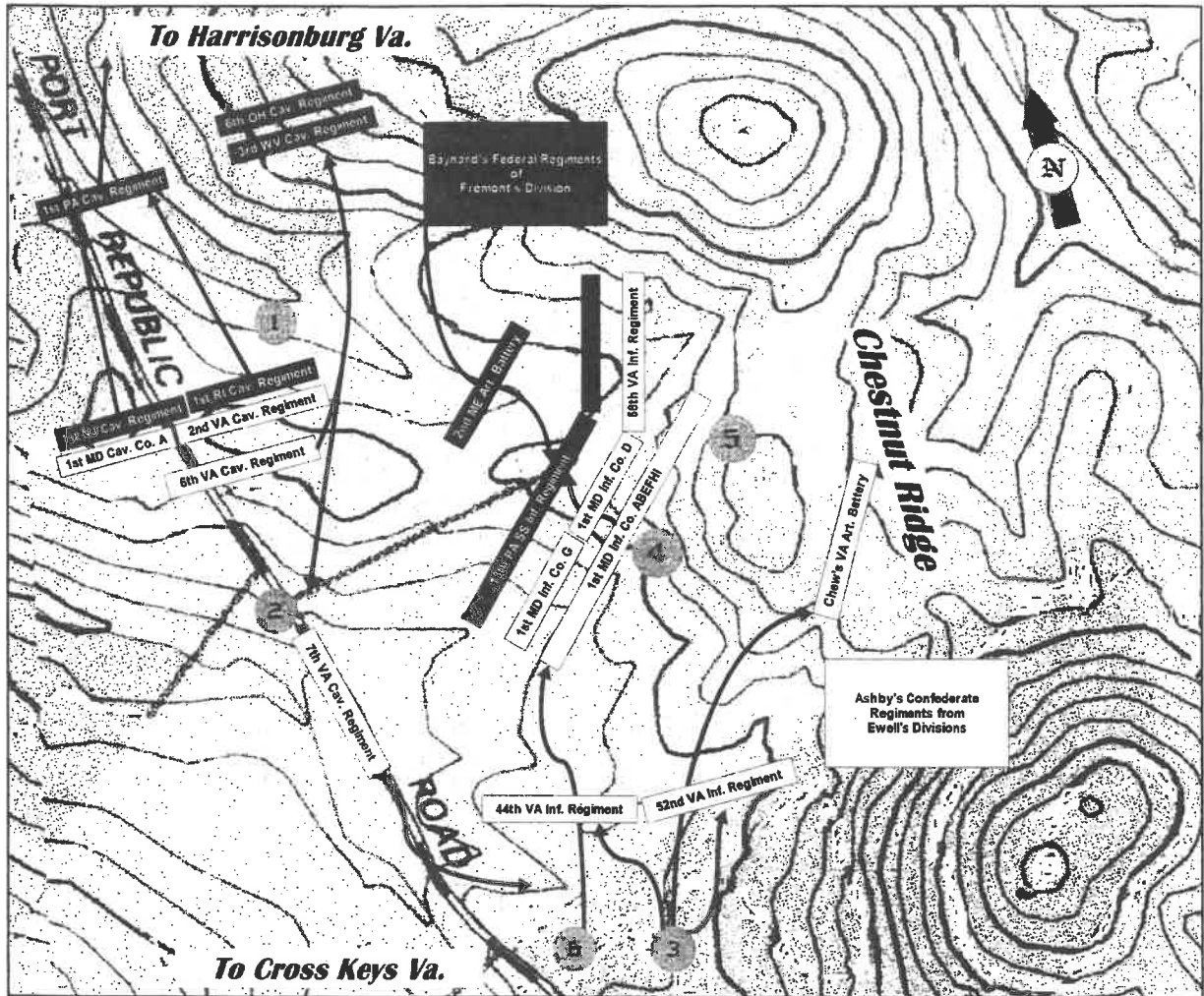
<sup>1</sup>During the Battle of Harrisonburg, Va., and upon the death of General Turner Ashby, General George H. Stewart<sup>3</sup> officer in command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Infantry took temporary command of the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry leaving a vacancy for Bradley T. Johnson.

<sup>2</sup> Promoted on or before the Battle of Harrisonburg, Va.



# The Life and Times of Lt. Nicholas N. Snowden, CSA.

## Battle Map of Harrisonburg, Virginia, June 6<sup>th</sup> 1862



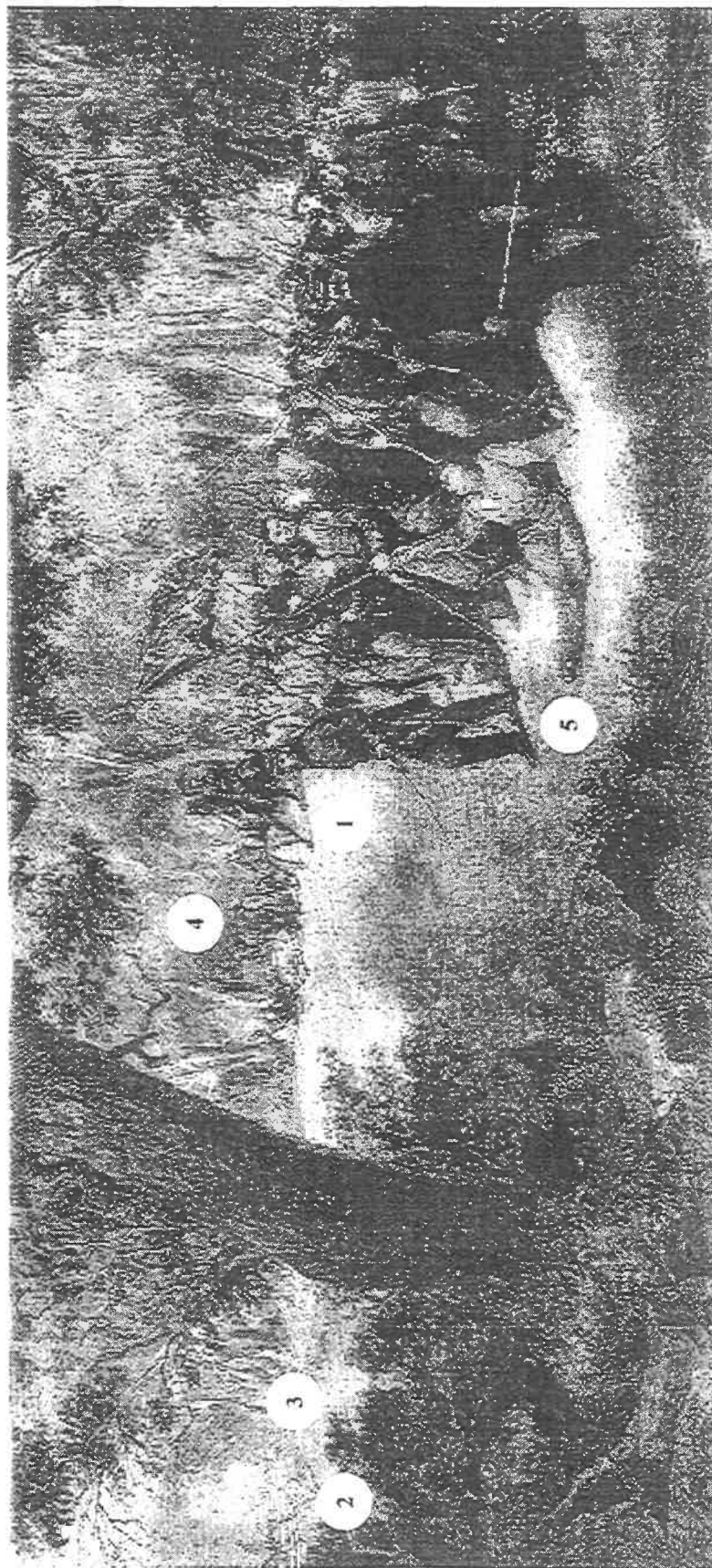
1. Ashby's regimental pickets are caught off guard while bivouacked by Baynard's Cavalry units. Ashby's Cavalry regroups and attacks.
2. The 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry and Ashby set out back down Port Republic Road, leaving the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Company 'A', 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry units to contend with the troublesome Federal Cavalry units. The 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry checks two regiments of cavalry before following. As Ashby returns he spots what he thinks are only a regiment of Federal Infantry. Leaving the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry to reconnaissance the Federal's position with orders not to engage the enemy, the excited Ashby with the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry continued. Ashby did not want to leave without a fight. He sent a courier to General Ewell requesting infantry units to ward off the intruders. Ewell reluctantly agreed by giving command to him over the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland's Companies 'D' and 'G' and the regiment of the 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia.
3. Ewell, not fully convinced that Ashby is properly supported, ordered Chew's Artillery to the top of Chestnut Ridge. The remaining companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland with the 44<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Regiments were to sit back in reserve.
4. Companies 'D' and 'G' were ordered to form a skirmish line across the front of the oncoming Federal regiment. Meanwhile Ashby's 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia formed into a single battle line and filed behind the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland as they approached. The Federals were not surprised hearing the warlike activity to the west. The 13<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Bucktails formed their battle line along the natural rock and tree line and the split rail fence along the craggy mud road in a field near the base of the Ridge. The battle began. Being pushed back for the second time to the tree line on the base of the ridge and after two hours of deadly fire, NICHOLAS fell mortally wounded in a charge, along with Captain Robertson of Company I as they engaged the enemy.
5. Ashby, seeing the predicament of the Maryland troops and filed the 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia to the right of Company 'D' in an attempt to flank the Bucktails. During this flanking maneuver and subsequent charge, Ashby was shot falling mortally wounded. The 58<sup>th</sup> was riddled with musket fire.
6. Riding up, Ewell sees the chaos unfolding. He orders General Bradley Johnson to end this affair. Bradley orders the remaining companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland to their feet and marches the companies in formation under fire behind the entrenched troops. As they come into line, Bradley commands them to face the enemy and charge. They do and after two more hours of charge after charge, the Bucktails retreat in defeat leaving their wounded leader, Colonel T. Kane (US), to face his foes alone.





# The Life and Times of Lt. Nicholas N. Snowden, CSA.

## The Battle of Harrisonburg, Virginia. June 6<sup>th</sup> 1862



1. Colonel Bradley T. Johnson just minutes before his horse was shot from underneath him.
2. The 13th Pennsylvania Reserves (Bucktails) in the road behind the split rail fence.
3. The point at which Companies 'I' and 'D' of the 1st Maryland breach the 'Bucktails' line.
4. Approximately where General Ashby is killed.
5. Believed to be Captain William W. Goldsborough at Company 'A's position on the 1st Maryland's left flank before the final assault on the 'Bucktails'.

### Notes:

The artist's lithograph is somewhat skewed. Their is more elevation to the right towards the ridge than to the left near the field. Most of the area is torn up now due progress and the power companies electric towers cutting furrows through the ridges western face.



## Shenandoah Valley Campaign Map



